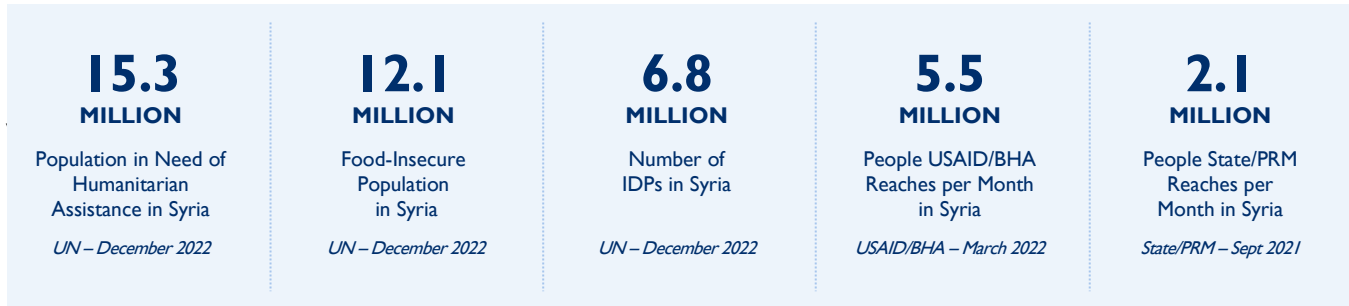


Syria – Complex Emergency

JULY 18, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- UNSC fails to extend UN cross-border humanitarian access to opposition-held northwest Syria from Türkiye via Bab al-Hawa border crossing as of July 18.
- The average price of WFP’s standard food basket in Syria reaches approximately \$210 in May, the highest monthly price on record since 2013.
- Due to multi-donor funding shortages, USAID/BHA partner WFP plans to implement a phased reduction in the number of people reached with food assistance across Syria each month, from 5.5 million to 3 million individuals, beginning in July.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$8,649,960,684
For the Syria Regional Crisis Response in FYs 2012–2023	State/PRM ²	\$8,146,310,271
Total³		\$16,796,270,955

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

UNSC Fails to Reauthorize UN Cross-Border Access to Northwest Syria

As of July 18, the UN Security Council (UNSC) had failed to adopt a new resolution that reauthorizes UN cross-border humanitarian access between Türkiye and opposition-held northwest Syria via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point (BCP). On July 11, two resolutions to reauthorize UN cross-border access failed in the council. The Bab al-Hawa BCP has been operational for the UN since 2014 and remains the most vital method to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in the northwest. Although the previous authorization for cross-border assistance expired on July 10, reauthorization has occurred after expiration in previous years. The UN is currently pausing humanitarian convoys destined for northwest Syria.

Approximately 80 percent of all food assistance delivered to northwest Syria is transported cross-border from Türkiye, and more than 70,000 children rely on UN-delivered nutrition commodities—the majority of which are transported through Bab al-Hawa—for survival, emphasizing the importance of continued UN cross-border access to the region. Overall, more than 52,000 trucks transporting vital humanitarian commodities crossed through Bab al-Hawa for onward delivery to northwest Syria's most vulnerable communities between July 2014 and May 2023.

In the months leading up to the expiration of UN cross-border access at Bab al-Hawa, humanitarian actors, including USAID/BHA partners, pre-positioned life-saving aid—including food, health, and nutrition commodities—to enable the distribution of UN humanitarian assistance to continue for several months after the UNSCR expiration. In the long term, failure to reauthorize UN cross-border access will adversely affect the 2.7 million vulnerable Syrians in the northwest that the UN reaches with life-saving cross-border assistance each month.

Food Prices Increase Across Syria as the SYP Continues to Depreciate

Syria's ongoing economic crisis continues to adversely affect food security conditions, with food prices increasing since May, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). The average price of WFP's standard food basket in Syria—comprising such essential food commodities including bread, lentils, oil, rice, and sugar sufficient to feed a five-person household—reached approximately \$210 in May, marking the highest monthly price since 2013, when WFP started collecting food price data in the country. Moreover, the minimum expenditure basket—which measures the cost of living for a five-person household—increased by more than 60 percent between May 2022 and May 2023, while the Syrian pound (SYP) lost nearly 55 percent of its value during the same period, WFP reports. In addition, Syria's monthly minimum wage of approximately \$37 covers less than 20 percent of the average food basket cost, according to the UN agency. USAID/BHA and its partners continue to monitor and respond to food insecurity in Syria, with USAID/BHA contributing nearly \$460 million for emergency food assistance in Syria and for refugees in the surrounding region during Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 to date.

WFP To Reduce the Number of Monthly Food Assistance Recipients to 3 Million

In mid-June, USAID/BHA partner WFP announced plans to reduce the number of people reached with emergency food assistance, including cash-based transfers and in-kind assistance, across Syria from 5.5 million to 3 million individuals per month beginning in July due to multi-donor funding shortages. After more than 12 years of conflict, resultant protracted displacement, and the devastating early-February earthquakes, Syrians continue to urgently require food assistance to meet basic needs. Currently, WFP food assistance recipients

in Syria receive 50 percent of the ideal standard ration size. The UN agency plans to begin a phased caseload reduction in July, according to WFP.

With USAID/BHA and other donor funding, WFP provided food assistance to 5.3 million individuals across Syria, including dispatching nearly 32,000 MT of in-kind food assistance to reach 5 million people—of which more than 9,400 MT were delivered cross-border from Türkiye to opposition-held northwest Syria—and distributing cash-based assistance to 371,000 individuals, during May—nearly the full target population of 5.5 million.

KEY FIGURES



6.6 Million

People supported monthly through USG emergency food assistance



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 the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and 12 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 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 in the region. WFP and USAID/BHA-funded NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to 6.6 million Syrians, including up to 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 and to provide awareness campaigns on breastfeeding and best practices to prevent chronic malnutrition.

After the earthquakes, WFP and five USAID/BHA NGO partners responded to meet immediate food assistance needs for earthquake-affected populations. WFP continued providing emergency assistance to earthquake-affected populations in opposition- and SARG-held areas of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idlib, and Latakia governorates. Between early February and late April, WFP provided 1.2 million meals to populations displaced by the earthquakes and reached 500,000 people with one week’s worth of ready-to-eat rations.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 11 partners, including the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, and the UN World Health Organization (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 continues to support 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. UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and seven NGOs are also continuing to deliver 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 (MHPSS) at temporary shelters housing displaced populations.

State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (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 continue to increase access to safe drinking water through emergency water trucking and the distribution of water storage tanks and water treatment devices. USAID/BHA is also supporting NGOs to strengthen cholera response activities by increasing water trucking frequency to communities and internally displaced person (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 to 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 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. 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. In 2023, UNHCR supported 114 community/satellite centers and nearly 110 mobile units

across the country. UNHCR also engaged over 2,400 community outreach volunteers in all 14 Governorates as of late May. UNHCR also opened a new UNHCR community center in rural Aleppo Governorate—an area highly affected by the crisis and the recent earthquakes—which replaced one severely damaged during the earthquakes. As of June, 29 out of 31 community centers in Aleppo Governorate are functional while two remain closed due to damage sustained in the earthquakes.

As of June, UNHCR had provided 452,000 people with protection services across Syria since the February 6 earthquakes, including awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) services, child protection activities, legal assistance, and psychological first aid. Following the 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 as of June—mainly in Aleppo, Hamah, Latakia, and Tartus governorates—including GBV activities, legal support for civil documentation and housing, land, and property issues, MHPSS, monitoring, referral and case management, and protection assistance to children, people with disabilities, and older persons.

USAID/BHA funds 13 protection partners, including IOM and UNFPA, to provide case management and referral services, learning and recreational opportunities, and psychosocial support 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.



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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 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.

Since the February 6 earthquakes, UN agencies—including U.S. Government (USG) partners—had transported more than 3,700 trucks carrying critical relief commodities from Türkiye to northwestern Syria as of early mid-July, the UN reports, reaching populations affected by the ongoing complex emergency, by the earthquakes, or by both. The total includes nearly 3,100 trucks that have delivered aid through the Bab al-Hawa BCP, approximately 530 trucks that have crossed through the Bab al-Salama BCP, and nearly 100 trucks that have crossed through the Al Ra'ee BCP, according to the UN—the latter two crossings having been opened by the SARG after the earthquakes. Seven UN agencies—including IOM, the UN Food and

Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO—transported commodities including in-kind food assistance, pharmaceuticals, and other relief items. 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 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 UNSC adopted UNSCR 2762, reauthorizing UN cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict-affected populations in Syria for six months. The resolution permitted the UN's use of Türkiye's Bab al-Hawa crossing for the delivery of UN humanitarian assistance into Syria until July 10, 2023. The resolution was a partial renewal of previous cross-border aid resolutions, beginning with UNSCR 2165 on July 14, 2014, which authorized four border crossings from Iraq, Jordan, and Türkiye. To date, the UNSC has failed to reauthorize the UN cross-border mandate at Bab al-Hawa following the expiration of UNSCR 2762 on July 10, 2023.
- 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. On May 13, border crossing access was extended by an additional three months to August 13.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
SYRIA			
USAID/BHA			
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$9,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Syria	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	HCIMA, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$13,900,000
WFP	Food Assistance, HCIMA, Logistics, Nutrition	Syria	\$115,000,000
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture, Health, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance, HCIMA, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$328,028,837
	Program Support		\$502,718
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$467,931,555
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$49,300,000
IPs	Education; ERMS; Food Assistance; Health, Logistics Support; Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$21,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$70,800,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$538,731,555

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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
EGYPT			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Egypt	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EGYPT			\$10,000,000
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection	Egypt	\$900,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection	Egypt	\$4,800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$5,700,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2023			\$15,700,000
IRAQ			
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Iraq	\$600,000

UNHCR	CCCM, Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$12,900,000
IPs	Agriculture, Education, ERMS, Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$13,900,000
JORDAN			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Jordan	\$55,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$55,000,000
STATE/PRM			
IOM	MPCA, Protection	Jordan	\$3,100,000
UNICEF	Education, ERMS, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Jordan	\$18,000,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Education, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$38,200,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Jordan	\$1,610,000
IPs	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$1,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$62,510,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2023			\$117,510,000
LEBANON²			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Lebanon	\$45,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$45,000,000
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Protection, MPCA, Logistics Support	Lebanon	\$900,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Lebanon	\$60,000,000
UN Development Program	ERMS, Shelter and Settlements	Lebanon	\$4,200,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$58,300,000
IPs	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$6,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$129,900,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2023			\$174,900,000
TÜRKIYE			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Türkiye	\$5,100,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN TÜRKIYE			\$5,100,000
STATE/PRM			
International Labor Organization	ERMS	Türkiye	\$3,500,000
IOM	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Türkiye	\$17,000,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Türkiye	\$18,200,000

UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Türkiye	\$30,400,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Türkiye	\$1,000,000
IPs	WASH, Livelihoods and Economic Recovery, Protection	Türkiye	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$72,100,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TÜRKIYE IN FY 2023			\$77,200,000

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

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSES IN FY 2023	\$583,031,555
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSES IN FY 2023	\$354,910,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2023	\$937,941,555

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	\$8,649,960,684
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2023	\$8,146,310,271
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2023	\$16,796,270,955

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA EARTHQUAKES RESPONSE IN FY 2023⁴

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
IOM	Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Aleppo, Idlib	\$18,300,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Affected Areas	\$31,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance, Nutrition	Affected Areas	\$65,000,000
WHO	Health	Affected Areas	\$1,500,000
IPs	Agriculture, Health, ERMS, Food Assistance, HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Affected Areas	\$49,200,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$170,000,000
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	CCCM, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$11,800,000
IPs	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			\$197,375,623

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 18, 2023.

² Funding for Lebanon is also reported in the Lebanon Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #3 dated June 15, 2023.

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

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

⁵ 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)