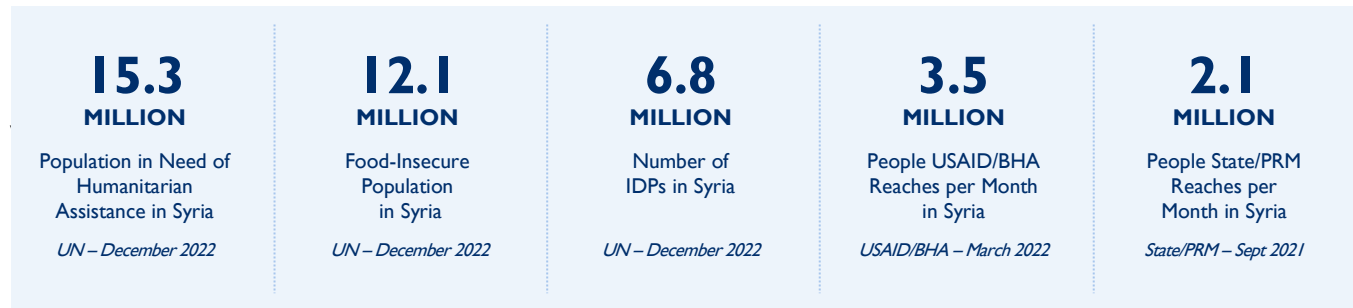


Syria – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 16, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The UN and SARG reach an understanding to resume UN cross-border humanitarian assistance to opposition-held northwest Syria from Türkiye via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point until mid-January.
- The SARG also extends UN cross-border access to Bab al-Salama and Al Ra'ee border crossing points, which was previously set to expire on August 13, until November 13.
- Insecurity led to at least 26 civilian deaths and injuries to more than 74 others in northwest Syria in 2023, according to the UN.



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

UN and SARG Reach Understanding to Resume UN Cross-Border Aid

Following negotiations, the UN and Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) reached an understanding to resume UN cross-border humanitarian assistance to opposition-held northwest Syria via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point during the week of August 6, with the SARG unilaterally extending UN access until mid-January 2024, according to the UN. This understanding marks the first time that SARG authorities have granted UN cross-border access via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point since the UN Security Council first passed a resolution authorizing UN cross-border humanitarian access to Syria in 2014. The SARG also extended UN humanitarian access via Bab al-Salama and Al Ra'ee border crossing points, which was set to expire on August 13, by another three months, international media report.

The UN is taking steps to operationalize the agreement to use the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point and continues to use Bab al-Salama and Al Ra'ee border crossing points. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) continue to operate across northwest Syria. Prior to the expiration of UN cross-border access to 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. The UN reaches approximately 2.7 million vulnerable Syrians in the northwest with life-saving cross-border assistance each month. More than 59,000 trucks transporting vital humanitarian commodities have crossed through Bab al-Hawa for onward delivery to northwest Syria between July 2014 and July 2023.

Violence in Northwest Syria Prompts Civilians to Consider Relocation

Persistent insecurity in opposition-held northwest Syria, including an increase in airstrikes launched by SARG and Government of Russia forces since late May, resulted in the deaths of at least 26 civilians and injuries to 74 others between early January and late July, according to the UN, underscoring that while conflict lines remain relatively static and displacement is much reduced since the height of the war, attacks on civilian populations continue. More than 50 percent of nearly 350 individuals surveyed across approximately 80 communities in the region reported considering relocating to a safer area to escape deteriorating security conditions, according to a Northwest Syria Protection Cluster⁴ July report. Respondents reported safety concerns, limited access to essential services, loss of property, adverse effects on livelihoods, and psychological distress as motivations to relocate. Nearly 80 percent of respondents identified aid distributions as their priority in the event of insecurity-related displacement, while 75 percent reported mental health and psychosocial services also as priorities. Approximately 60 percent of individuals reported contemplating relocating within northwest Syria, while 40 percent reported considering relocating outside of the northwest, including to other areas of Syria and to other countries, including Türkiye, according to the report.

Approximately 90 percent of the 4.5 million people residing in northwest Syria rely on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, according to the UN. With USAID/BHA and other donor funding, the UN World Food Program (WFP) pre-positioned 15,000 metric tons of food and nutrition commodities in northwest Syria for distribution in July. In addition, USAID/BHA partner the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) transported 37,300 dignity kits, containing critical hygiene and safety items, and reached nearly 13,100 individuals with gender-based violence (GBV) prevention initiatives in northwest Syria in June. Cross-border operations in northwest Syria are essential to ensuring women, especially those in areas where life-saving

⁴ The coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

services are limited or nonexistent, have access to sexual and reproductive health services and GBV support, according to UNFPA.

GoT Increasingly Deports Syrian Refugees to Northwest Syria

Government of Türkiye (GoT) authorities deported 150 Syrian refugees residing in Türkiye to northwest Syria's Idlib Governorate via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point on July 28, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees deported from Türkiye to 950 since the beginning of July, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The GoT has deported more than 30,000 Syrian refugees since early 2023, the human rights NGO reports. Relief actors estimate that government authorities deport 1,000 Syrians from Türkiye each week on average, representing a notable increase compared to deportation rates prior to the February 2023 earthquakes. Many Syrian refugees deported by the GoT are transported to parts of northern Aleppo Governorate, despite not being originally from the area, and face limited basic infrastructure and services available to support the arrivals, according to relief actors.

KEY FIGURES



3.5 Million

People supported
monthly through USG
emergency food
assistance

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports WFP, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), 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 food vouchers, monthly in-kind food rations, and cash transfers for emergency nutritional products, 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 3.5 million people inside Syrian, as well as Syrian refugees across Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Türkiye via WFP, 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.

In addition, after the earthquakes in February 2023, WFP and five USAID/BHA NGO partners responded to meet immediate food assistance needs for earthquake-affected populations in Syria. 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.



5 Million

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

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 11 partners, including 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. UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and seven NGOs are 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. USAID/BHA also continues to support 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 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.



15

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.



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. 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, as of June. UNHCR also engaged over 2,300 community outreach volunteers in all 14 Governorates as of late June. 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, 30 out of 31 community centers in Aleppo Governorate are functional while one remains 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 GBV services, child protection activities, legal assistance, and psychological first aid. Following the earthquakes, the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster 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.



17

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

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA supports ten partners, including IOM, to distribute shelter materials and basic household items and conduct shelter rehabilitation activities in Syria. In northern Syria, USAID/BHA partners 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 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 to support populations affected by the ongoing complex emergency, by the earthquakes, or by both as of mid-July, the UN reports. The total includes nearly 3,100 trucks that delivered aid through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point, approximately 530 trucks that crossed through the Bab al-Salama border crossing point, and nearly 100 trucks that crossed through

the Al Ra'ee border crossing point, 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, 2023, 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. In July 2023, the UNSC failed to reauthorize UN cross-border access. The UN and SARG reached an understanding in early August 2023 to resume UN cross-border assistance via the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point.
- On February 6, 2023, 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 three months of cross-border access to two additional border crossings—Al Ra'ee and Bab al-Salama—for aid deliveries from Türkiye to northwest Syria. On May 13, access to the two border crossings was extended until August 13, and on August 6, the SARG further extended access until November 13.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2023⁵

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 Support, 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 2023

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
LEBANON ⁶			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Lebanon	\$45,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$45,000,000
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection	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	Livelihoods and Economic Recovery, Protection, WASH	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 2012–2023⁷

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 2023⁸

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, HCIMA, Health, ERMS, Food Assistance, 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
DoD⁹			
	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

⁵ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 15, 2023.

⁶ Funding for Lebanon is also reported in the Lebanon Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #3 dated July 21, 2023.

⁷ The total USG funding for the Syria regional crisis response does not include funding for the 2023 earthquake response, which is reported separately.

⁸ The USG earthquake response funding was previously reported in the USG Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Fact Sheets.

⁹ 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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)