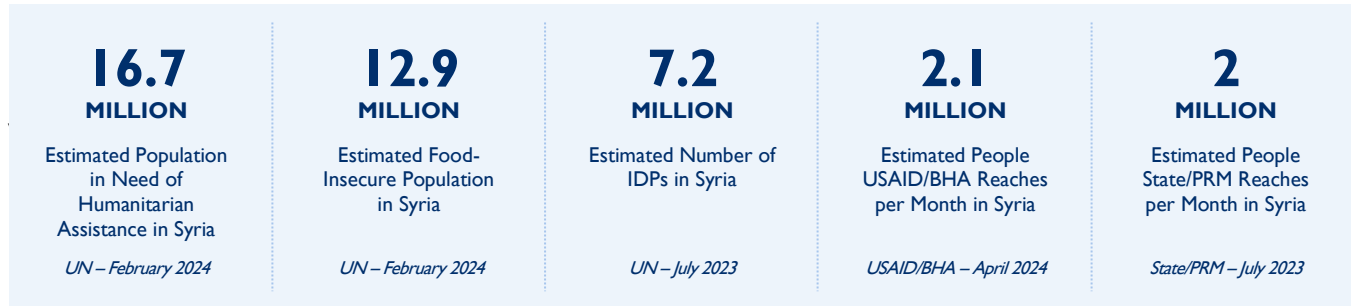


Syria – Complex Emergency

MAY 27, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The 2024 HRP for Syria requests nearly \$4.1 billion to meet the needs of 10.8 million people, aiming to reach the largest numbers of people with protection, health, food, and WASH assistance.
- The USG pledged nearly \$593 million in additional funding to support multi-sector humanitarian assistance in Syria at the Eighth Brussels Conference on May 27.
- An estimated 78 percent of Syria’s subdistricts experienced a deterioration in humanitarian access between July 2023 and March 2024, indicating growing challenges in both people’s ability to reach assistance and humanitarian organizations’ ability to reach people in need, OCHA reports.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2024	USAID/BHA ¹	\$9,020,525,222
	State/PRM ²	\$8,442,280,455
Total		\$17,462,805,677

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2024 HRP Calls for \$4.1 Billion to Assist 10.8 Million People in Syria

The 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Syria requests nearly \$4.1 billion—the highest humanitarian funding appeal for a single country to date in 2024—to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of 10.8 million people. The population targeted for assistance represents approximately 67 percent of the 16.7 million people the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) estimates to be in need of humanitarian assistance during the year due to economic decline, escalation of hostilities, global price inflation, lasting adverse effects of the February 2023 earthquakes, and protracted displacement. The HRP, a summary of which the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released in mid-April, aims to reach the largest numbers of people with protection, health, food, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, with a focus on addressing areas facing the most severe needs and gaps in response coverage.

Amid funding shortfalls for humanitarian assistance globally, the UN warned in mid-April that nearly \$600 million is required to secure adequate supplies of critical relief commodities, such as food and nutrition assistance, hygiene kits, medical equipment and supplies, and shelter items, for people in need in Syria from April to September. An estimated 15.4 million people face acute food insecurity, 1.8 million people urgently require access to safe drinking water, and more than 506,000 children need life-saving treatment for acute malnutrition. In addition, only 63 percent of hospitals and 52 percent of primary health facilities are fully functional countrywide, with remaining facilities and mobile medical teams at risk of closure due to funding gaps, threatening access to health and nutrition services for an estimated 14.9 million people, according to the UN. Notably, the 2023 HRP received less than 40 percent—\$2.1 billion—of its required funding during 2023, of which the U.S. Government (USG) provided approximately one-third, according to the UN.

USG Pledges \$593 Million in Additional Humanitarian Assistance for Syria

The USG pledged nearly \$593 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Syria during the Eighth Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, a high-level pledging conference convened by the EU on May 27. The pledged funding includes nearly \$360 million from State/PRM and more than \$233 million from USAID/BHA, which will support the continued delivery of life-saving assistance to communities inside Syria, as well as Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan. With the newly announced funding, USG partners—including local and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies—will provide access to safe drinking water, emergency food and nutrition support, health care services, and psychosocial support and other protection services for conflict-affected communities.

Humanitarian Access Deteriorates in Majority of Syria's Subdistricts

Humanitarian organizations reported a deterioration in humanitarian access in 210 of Syria's 270 subdistricts—or 78 percent—between June 2023 and March 2024, largely across central and southwest Syria, Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-controlled areas of Dayr az Zawr Governorate, and northeastern areas of Al Hasakah Governorate, according to a countrywide access overview released by OCHA in late April. While the report notes the deterioration may be due in part to improved reporting to OCHA by humanitarian partners, it also highlights a number of examples contributing to reduced access, such as global humanitarian funding shortages, including UN World Food Program (WFP) shortfalls prompting the UN agency to reduce and retarget assistance; the inoperability of Al Hasakah's Alouk water station since October 2023 due to conflict-related damage to Amuda

power station, which has caused an estimated 960,000 people to rely on water trucking from private sources for safe drinking water; military activities—including at least 45 air attacks inside Syria—related to regional effects from the escalation in hostilities in Gaza resulting in civilian casualties and limiting humanitarian movements; and shipping delays and increased related costs resulting from the reduction in Red Sea shipments due to Al Houthi attacks since October 19.

Overall, moderate or more severe humanitarian access constraints affect 75 percent of Syria’s 270 subdistricts, representing the locations of 63 percent of the people estimated to require assistance in the 2024 HNO, according to OCHA. The deterioration in access reflects both the ability of populations to access basic needs and the ability of humanitarian assistance to reach populations in need. Factors such as fuel shortages, limited access to water and electricity, poor economic conditions, and community, military, and tribal dynamics are restricting people’s ability to reach humanitarian assistance and basic services in more than 60 percent of subdistricts countrywide. In addition, hostilities, military activity, and restrictions on the movement of humanitarian assets, as well as challenges related to the physical environment, continue to hamper humanitarian access in more than one-half of all subdistricts. For example, from September 2023 to April 9, 2024, humanitarian organizations reported more than 16,000 conflict-related incidents, a 33 percent increase compared to the previous nine months, according to the Syria International NGO Regional Forum, which comprises nearly 70 humanitarian international NGOs working across Syria. OCHA partners also report continuing interference in project implementation by various actors, though less common than in July 2023, with reported instances of project approval delays, as well as attempts to modify project activities and intervene in selection of recipients and partners, among other forms of interference.

USAID/BHA Partners Respond to Flooding in Northwest Syria IDP Sites

Heavy rainfall, strong winds, and resultant flooding beginning on May 1 affected more than 12,600 individuals across 33 internally displaced person (IDP) sites in Aleppo and Idlib governorates, damaging or destroying more than 200 shelters and 2,500 tents as of May 7, according to OCHA. The storm also resulted in an unspecified number of livestock deaths and damage to crops, including wheat, barley, and cumin, on which local communities are heavily reliant for income, according to the NGO SARD. USAID/BHA partners responded by providing shelter repair materials—including insulation and plastic sheets—to all affected households, as well as a one-time cash distribution to more than 300 households across three storm-affected camps in Idlib.

KEY FIGURES



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Number of USAID/BHA partners providing emergency food and nutrition assistance in Syria and to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports WFP, the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and 14 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. One USAID/BHA NGO partner delivered 225 metric tons (MT) of flour and 2 MT of yeast to bakeries in April, yielding subsidized bread to help address the needs of nearly 100,000 individuals living in northwest Syria. On average, WFP and USAID/BHA NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to an estimated 2.8 million people, including 2.1 million people inside Syria and

approximately 700,000 Syrian refugees across Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye. Additionally, with State/PRM support, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) provides child nutrition assistance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye.



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Number of USAID/BHA partners providing health assistance in Syria

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 12 partners, including ten NGOs, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and WHO, to provide critical health assistance in Syria, including delivering medical supplies, deploying mobile health and nutrition teams to hard-to-reach areas, and dispatching mobile medical units and surgical teams to treat trauma injuries and provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services at temporary shelters housing displaced populations. Relief actors also provide community-based health education and training for Syrian medical workers.

State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, WHO, and 20 NGO partners to provide health assistance—including medical consultations, MHPSS services, specialized health services, and vaccinations—for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.



16

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

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 16 partners 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 are increasing 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 undertake hygiene promotion activities by distributing soap and other WASH commodities and providing additional water for handwashing and cleaning. In March, one NGO partner delivered nearly 3.9 million gallons of safe drinking water, supporting more than 4,200 IDP households in Aleppo and Dayr az Zawr. State/PRM supports partners—including international organizations in Jordan and Lebanon and a partner in Syria—to provide WASH assistance to Syrian refugees and to vulnerable populations inside Syria.



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Centers through which State/PRM provides protection assistance in Syria

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA funds 16 protection partners, including UNFPA, WHO, and 13 NGOs, to provide case management, referral services, 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 gender-based violence survivors throughout Syria.

Furthermore, State/PRM partner UNHCR provides comprehensive protection services—including facilitating community-based protection interventions, identifying people in need of protection assistance, 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 supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, and NGO partners to provide protection assistance, including legal documentation and case management services, for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. Since the beginning of 2024, UNHCR legal partners provided legal assistance through lawyers and legal outreach volunteers to over 21,500 individuals. The assistance included legal awareness raising, direct legal interventions provided mainly to IDPs for birth and marriage registration, as well as legal assistance on gender-based violence prevention and response.



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Number of USAID/BHA partners providing shelter assistance and relief commodities in Syria

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA supports nine partners to distribute shelter materials and basic household items and rehabilitate shelters in Syria. In northern Syria, USAID/BHA partners distribute emergency shelter items and maintain and rehabilitate IDP camps and collective centers. In addition, 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 five NGO partners to provide shelter and relief commodities to refugees in Syria and neighboring countries. In February and March, more than 1,000 households—approximately 6,700 individuals—received winter items following their displacement due to hostilities in eastern Dayr az Zawr. In addition, UNHCR completed the installation of 630 solar streetlight devices in 10 areas in As Suwayda' Governorate during March, contributing to the protection of approximately 6,300 households, or 31,500 individuals, most of whom are women and children.

Seven UN agencies—including UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO—continue to transport in-kind food assistance, pharmaceuticals, and other relief items to northwest Syria in support of dually conflict- and earthquake-affected communities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Following peaceful demonstrations against the SARG in March 2011, SARG President Bashar al-Asad pledged legislative reforms. However, reforms failed to materialize, and SARG forces loyal to President al-Asad 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 UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted UNSC Resolution (UNSCR) 2672, reauthorizing UN cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict-affected populations in Syria via Türkiye’s Bab al-Hawa crossing for six months; however, 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 BCP, with transshipments beginning in September. On January 11, the Permanent Mission of Syria to the UN announced the six-month extension of the consent-based mechanism for humanitarian assistance to the Bab al-Hawa BCP until July 13.
- 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 had 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-Asad granted the UN three months of cross-border access to two additional BCPs—Al Ra’ee and Bab al-Salama—for aid deliveries from Türkiye to northwest Syria. Following the initial approval, the SARG has approved or extended humanitarian access six times to the two BCPs, most recently until August 13.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
SYRIA			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Nutrition	Syria	\$35,000,000
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Health; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP; HCIMA; Health; MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$140,089,000
	Program Support		\$324,474
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$175,413,474
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$175,413,474

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
JORDAN			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance - Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Jordan	\$58,000,000

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$58,000,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2024			\$58,000,000
LEBANON²			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$43,134,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$43,134,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2024			\$43,134,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSES IN FY 2024		\$276,547,474
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2024		\$276,547,474

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2024³

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2024		\$9,020,525,222
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2024		\$8,442,280,455
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2024		\$17,462,805,677

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 27, 2024.
² Funding for Lebanon is also reported in the Lebanon Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #1 dated April 3, 2024.
³ The total USG funding for the Syria regional crisis response does not include \$251,475,623 in FY 2023 funding for the 2023 earthquake response, which is reported separately in the USG Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Fact Sheets.

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)