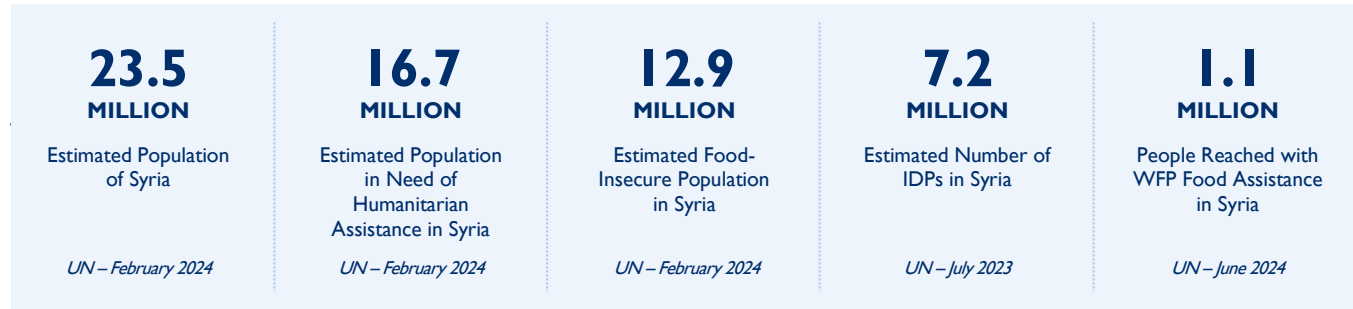


Syria – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 2, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- On July 10, the SARG extended its consent for UN cross-border humanitarian access from Türkiye into NWS via Bab al-Hawa BCP through January 2025.
- Syrians throughout the country face shortages of health care staff and facilities, with the number of functioning primary health care facilities declining by nearly 9 percentage points between 2023 and 2024, according to the Health Cluster.
- Residents of nearly 200 IDP camps in NWS will likely lose access to critical WASH support by September, absent additional humanitarian funding, the UN reports.
- Two USAID/BHA local partners delivered nutrition, protection, and WASH support to at-risk populations across NWS in May.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2024	USAID/BHA ¹	\$9,020,525,222
	State/PRM ²	\$8,802,553,455
Total		\$17,823,078,677

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)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

UN Sustains Access to Bab al-Hawa Border Crossing through January 2025

On July 10, the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) extended its consent for the UN to deliver humanitarian assistance through Bab al-Hawa border crossing point (BCP)—the primary point through which humanitarian assistance enters northwest Syria (NWS) from Türkiye—for six months, until January 13, 2025, the UN reports. The approval marks the second access extension by the SARG for the UN to deliver cross-border assistance via Bab al-Hawa since initially granting the UN access in August 2023, after the UN Security Council (UNSC) failed to reauthorize a UNSC-sanctioned mechanism for cross-border access in July 2023. Of the more than 400 trucks that carried UN assistance into NWS from Türkiye between January 1 and July 29, more than 90 percent crossed via Bab al-Hawa, which provides direct routes into opposition-controlled Idlib Governorate, where more than two-thirds of people in need of humanitarian assistance in NWS reside, according to the UN.

Shortages of Health Facilities and Staff in Syria Exacerbate Health Needs

Syrians faced shortages of health facilities and staff throughout the country from January to March, according to a July Health Cluster report, even as the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview estimates approximately 14.9 million people require life-saving health assistance during the year.³ All districts across Dar'a, Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqah governorates fell below the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) standard of at least one partially or fully functional hospital per 250,000 people, while the report cited fewer than ten hospital beds per 10,000 people—well below the Sphere minimum standard of 18 beds per 10,000 people—in every district across Dar'a, Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, Quneitra, and Ar Raqqah governorates.⁴ Moreover, no subdistricts in Dar'a or Al Hasakah met the IASC standard of one functional primary health facility per 10,000 people during the reporting period. Meanwhile, staffing levels fell significantly below the IASC standard of at least 22 health staff per 10,000 people in seven of Syria's 14 governorates, including Aleppo, Damascus Countryside, Dar'a, Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, Idlib, and Ar Raqqah, all of which reported fewer than 15 staff per 10,000 people.

More than 13 years of conflict has severely weakened Syria's health system, disrupting health services and contributing to recurring disease outbreaks, according to the Health Cluster. Notably, the percentage of fully functioning primary health care facilities decreased by nearly 9 percentage points and the percentage of fully functioning specialized health care centers—such as dialysis, leishmaniasis, nutrition, and physical rehabilitation centers—decreased by more than 30 percentage points from the January-to-March 2023 period to the same period in 2024. In response to the elevated needs, Health Cluster partners—including USAID/BHA partners—provided more than 456,600 courses of treatment, supported nearly 495,700 medical procedures, and trained 70 staff on various health topics between January and May, prioritizing districts and populations with the most severe gaps in services.

Nearly 200 IDP Camps in NWS At Risk of Losing Critical WASH Support

Nearly 200 internally displaced person (IDP) camps in NWS—including more than 110 sites in Idlib and 80 sites in northern Aleppo—with a cumulative population of nearly 250,000 people are at risk of losing access to critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support by September, absent additional humanitarian funding, the UN warned on July 29. Approximately 660 of the more than 1,500 IDP camps in NWS already lacked humanitarian desludging, waste collection, and water assistance as of late July,

³ The Health Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

⁴ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN, nongovernmental organizations, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

resulting in more than 907,000 residents relying on intermittent water support from local authorities or costly and unregulated private water sources. The absence of sanitation services, in conjunction with limited water supply and overcrowding, has heightened the spread of communicable diseases, with a December UN assessment indicating that individuals residing in camps in NWS were seven times more likely to contract scabies lesions than those living outside of the camps. Additionally, at least 24 percent of camps are located in hard-to-reach and remote areas with limited humanitarian assistance, highlighting the scale of needs across camps in the region, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. USAID/BHA supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and 12 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide WASH services, among other multi-sector assistance, in IDP sites and host communities in NWS. In June, an NGO partner delivered safe drinking water to nearly 392,800 people in IDP camps in NWS while supporting latrine cleaning, solid waste management, and water quality testing in camps in Aleppo and Idlib, as well as desludging in Idlib camps.

REACH Assessments Find Populations in NES Face Multi-Sector Needs

In northeast Syria (NES), IDP sites and host communities reported multi-sector needs during March and June, according to assessments conducted by REACH published in July. The assessments included interviews with residents across more than 280 informal settlements and 1,000 communities with a cumulative population of nearly 203,900 IDPs and hundreds of thousands of host community members across areas of Aleppo, Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqa controlled by the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria. Approximately 98 percent of the assessed host communities reported poor access to sufficient food, with more than 90 percent citing unaffordability as the main challenge. The vast majority of assessed IDP sites reported residents adopting negative coping mechanisms—including purchasing food on credit, reducing expenditures on critical items, and skipping meals—to meet basic food needs. While 98 percent of IDP sites reported physical access to health facilities in March, most residents faced barriers to receiving health services, including insufficient medical supplies and equipment at facilities and the unaffordability of health services. Both IDPs and host populations highlighted livelihood assistance as a priority need due to the negative impacts of high temperatures, increased operational costs, and insufficient water on agricultural production, a common source of income for approximately 90 percent of assessed communities. USAID/BHA supports four UN agencies and 20 NGOs to address critical multi-sector needs for populations across NES.

USAID/BHA Local Partners Provide Multi-Sector Assistance in NWS in May

As part of efforts to identify and mitigate nutrition challenges in NWS, a USAID/BHA local partner screened more than 7,500 children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for acute malnutrition in May. The local partner identified and treated 13 children with severe acute malnutrition and more than 170 PLW and nearly 70 children with moderate acute malnutrition in northern Aleppo and Idlib. The USAID/BHA partner also supported WASH services in IDP sites, including providing approximately 9 gallons of safe drinking water per person per day and collecting garbage for approximately 34,000 individuals in Aleppo and Idlib.

With USAID/BHA support, another local partner supplied more than 4,300 gallons of safe drinking water and desludging services for residents of 15 IDP sites and host communities in northern Aleppo and Idlib during May. The partner also identified 23 individuals to receive specialized gender-based violence (GBV) response services, trained more than 150 caregivers on parenting skills, and engaged 135 individuals in peer-to-peer support sessions on topics such as anger management, communication, and problem solving to reduce protection risks during the month. USAID/BHA continues to support local partners in northern Syria to provide essential multi-sector assistance for at-risk communities, including children, IDPs, and women, as part of efforts to advance locally led humanitarian assistance.

KEY FIGURES



17

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



13

USAID/BHA partners providing health assistance in Syria



17

USAID/BHA partners providing critical WASH assistance in Syria

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), 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 emergency nutritional products, food vouchers, and monthly in-kind food rations, while also distributing wheat flour and yeast to bakeries. WFP and USAID/BHA NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to people inside Syria and 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.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 13 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-related 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.

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 17 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 June, a USAID/BHA NGO partner completed the maintenance of damaged water systems serving an estimated 9,800 individuals across eight camps in Aleppo and Idlib, as well as damaged sewage systems serving approximately 780 individuals across three camps in Idlib. 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. Moreover, 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.



230

Centers through which State/PRM provides protection assistance in Syria

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA funds 16 protection partners, including UNFPA, WHO, and 14 NGOs, to provide case management, referral services, and psychosocial support (PSS) interventions 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. During June, a USAID/BHA NGO partner reached more than 6,400 people with protection assistance—including case management support, legal counseling, and PSS activities—across NWS and NES and continued to strengthen the technical capacity of local NGOs to provide protection assistance.

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 IOM, UNICEF, and NGO partners to provide protection assistance, including legal documentation and case management services, for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. In March, UNHCR supported legal teams to provide specialized legal assistance—including counseling, GBV and child protection response, and residency and visa assistance—for more than 1,200 refugees and asylum-seekers.



9

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. For example, a USAID/BHA NGO partner responded to a windstorm that resulted in significant damage to at least eight informal settlements in Ar Raqqa on June 9. Following a rapid needs assessment, the NGO delivered emergency shelter kits comprising shelter repair materials and other tools to more than 4,300 individuals in two settlements on June 30.

In addition, State/PRM partner UNHCR supports the replacement of damaged tents for households in IDP camps in NES 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 January, a State/PRM partner provided emergency relief items to more than 1,500 newly displaced individuals in Dayr az Zawr following hostilities in the

eastern part of the governorate. Additionally, UNHCR completed the installation of approximately 630 streetlights in ten areas of As Suwayda' Governorate in March, benefitting an estimated 31,500 people.

Seven UN agencies—including UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO, among others—continue to transport in-kind food assistance, pharmaceuticals, and other relief items to NWS 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 U.S. Government (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 Resolution 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 July 10, the Permanent Mission of Syria to the UN announced the six-month extension of the consent-based mechanism for Bab al-Hawa BCP until January 13, 2025.
- 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 NWS. 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)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP; HCIMA; Health; Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$140,089,000
	Program Support		\$324,474
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$175,413,474
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	CCCM, ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$17,030,000
IPs	Education, ERMS, Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, Health, Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$5,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$22,930,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$198,343,474

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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
EGYPT			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, Health, Protection	Egypt	\$5,800,000
UNICEF	Education, Food Assistance, Health, Protection	Egypt	\$1,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$6,800,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2024			\$6,800,000
IRAQ			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Iraq	\$22,543,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Iraq	\$460,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$23,003,000
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
STATE/PRM			

UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan	\$55,610,000
UNICEF	Education, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Jordan	\$25,000,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Jordan	\$2,000,000
IP	Protection	Jordan	\$1,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$84,110,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2024			\$142,110,000
LEBANON²			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$43,134,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$43,134,000
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$106,270,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Lebanon	\$40,600,000
IP	Protection	Lebanon	\$8,800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$155,670,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2024			\$198,804,000
TÜRKIYE			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Türkiye	\$17,000,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Türkiye	\$27,860,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Türkiye	\$18,200,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Türkiye	\$3,000,000
IP	ERMS	Türkiye	\$1,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$67,760,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TÜRKIYE IN FY 2024			\$67,760,000

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 STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSES IN FY 2024	\$360,273,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2024	\$636,820,474

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	\$8,802,553,455
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2024	\$17,823,078,677

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; State/PRM FY 2024 funding included above was announced, but not committed and obligated, as of the release of Syria Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #7 dated 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.usaid.gov
 - 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)