

# SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

JANUARY 16, 2020

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**11.7 million**

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria  
UN – January 2019

**6.2 million**

IDPs in Syria  
UN – May 2019

**4 million**

People Reached per Month by USAID Assistance in Syria  
USAID – December 2019

**5.6 million**

Syrian Refugees in Neighboring Countries  
UNHCR – January 2020

**3.6 million**

Syrian Refugees in Turkey  
UNHCR – January 2020

**914,648**

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon  
UNHCR – December 2019

**654,692**

Syrian Refugees in Jordan  
UNHCR – January 2020

**245,810**

Syrian Refugees in Iraq  
UNHCR – December 2019

**438,000**

Palestinian Refugees in Syria  
UNRWA – June 2019

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Airstrikes and SARG ground offensive displace nearly 350,000 people in northwest Syria since December 1
- UNSC partially renews cross-border aid resolution for Syria, reauthorizes two of four UN border crossings for six months
- Humanitarian actors continue to provide food, shelter, and winterization assistance countrywide

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2019

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup> | \$1,950,692,988 |
| USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>  | \$3,287,437,637 |
| State/PRM <sup>3</sup>  | \$5,260,812,775 |

**\$10,498,943,400**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since December 1, increased airstrikes and shelling and a Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) ground offensive have displaced nearly 350,000 people from southern Idlib Governorate, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Those fleeing the attacks have primarily moved northward toward urban centers—including Idlib, Ariha, and Saraqab cities—as well as to internally displaced person (IDP) camps near the Syria–Turkey border. OCHA reports that Ma'arrat An-Numan city and surrounding areas are nearly empty, and people from Saraqab and nearby areas continue to relocate in anticipation that the conflict may track northward.
- On January 10, the UN Security Council (UNSC) passed a resolution reauthorizing the use of two border crossings from Turkey to northwest Syria to deliver UN cross-border humanitarian assistance for six months. The previous UNSC resolution had authorized those two crossings and two others—from Iraq to northeast Syria and from Jordan to southwest Syria—for 12 months; according to OCHA, the UN had supported approximately 4 million people in northern Syria under the previous resolution, including an estimated 2.7 million people in northwest Syria.
- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided emergency food assistance to approximately 4.5 million people in Syria during December, including regular deliveries inside Syria and through the cross-border operation from Turkey.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- On January 10, the UNSC partially renewed the cross-border authorization that enables UN agencies to deliver aid into Syria from neighboring countries. The resolution that passed, UNSC Resolution 2504, allows UN agencies to continue operating cross-border through two border crossings from Turkey—Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salama—for a period of six months. The border crossings from Turkey enable the UN to reach the areas of highest humanitarian need and displacement in northwest Syria, where an estimated 2.7 million people rely entirely on UN cross-border humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA. However, the removal of two previously authorized UN border crossings—connecting Syria with Iraq and Jordan—limits humanitarian access to other vulnerable populations throughout the country, particularly in northeast Syria, in addition to necessitating another UNSC vote in July 2020 to seek an extension of the authorization.
- The preceding UNSC resolution—UNSC Resolution 2449—authorized four UN border crossings for 12 months through January 10, 2020. Iraq’s Yaroubia border crossing had allowed the UN to deliver critical supplies, particularly medical commodities, to northeast Syria, and Jordan’s Ramtha border crossing provided access to southwest Syria. The Ramtha border crossing had not recently been utilized, following the SARG resumption of control in areas of southern Syria during 2018; however, the Yaroubia border crossing was an important avenue for humanitarian actors to reach an estimated 1.4 million people in northeast Syria, according to the UN. The previous UNSC resolutions, renewed annually since the first one in 2014, allowed for the delivery of life-saving aid, sending nearly 31,300 trucks through the four border crossings with relief commodities from Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey as of December 31, OCHA reports.

### *Northwest Syria*

- Since December 1, an increase in hostilities had displaced nearly 350,000 people from southern Idlib as of January 14; approximately 80 percent are women and children, according to OCHA. The majority of IDPs traveled to urban centers such as Ariha, Idlib, and Saraqab cities, as well as to IDP camps in northwestern Idlib and areas of Aleppo’s Afrin, Al Bab, and Azaz cities, OCHA reports. A significant portion of the recently displaced people are seeking shelter in towns and cities, rather than IDP camps; as of January 15, nearly 50 percent of IDPs are living with host families or staying in rented houses, while more than 30 percent have sought shelter in camps, and the remainder are sheltering in informal settlements or unoccupied buildings, according to OCHA. Public buildings such as mosques, schools, and wedding halls continue to host displaced families in Idlib; however, the informal shelters may be unable to accommodate additional IDPs due to the scale of ongoing displacement, OCHA reports.
- Shelling and airstrikes reportedly resumed in Idlib on January 14, following a two-day lull in hostilities as a result of a ceasefire announced by the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) and the Government of Turkey a few days prior, according to international media. On January 12, SARG helicopters dropped fliers in western Aleppo and southern Idlib, notifying civilians to depart the area through three humanitarian corridors ahead of a potential ground offensive. The temporary ceasefire followed a series of airstrikes in the province on January 11, which resulted in 21 deaths, including 8 children, and injured at least 75 others, according to the UN. In addition, on January 15, a series of airstrikes resulted in at least 21 deaths and injured more than 80 others in Idlib, destroying a market and industrial area, international media report.
- The security situation in northwest Syria has significantly deteriorated since the increased SARG ground offensive began on December 19, compounded by frequent airstrikes affecting civilian infrastructure, including schools and IDP camps, relief actors report. Despite ground fighting subsiding in late December, unpredictable security conditions continue to prompt civilians to depart southern Idlib in anticipation of further hostilities; however, IDPs remain particularly at risk, as airstrikes have reportedly targeted evacuation routes, according to a December 23 statement by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. In the statement, Secretary-General Guterres called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, highlighting the need for safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to allow the UN and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to reach vulnerable populations.
- In a January 7 statement, UN Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis Mark Cutts reported that airstrikes in Ariha killed at least nine people, injured 20 people, and damaged or destroyed a school, a kindergarten, and a mosque on January 5. On December 24, an airstrike on the Jobaz IDP site near Saraqab killed at least 12 people, including four children, and on January 1, shelling near a school in Idlib’s Sarmin sub-district killed at least 10 people,

including five children; the school building was utilized as a shelter for newly displaced families from southern Idlib, according to OCHA.

- The escalation of hostilities also significantly impacted humanitarian services, resulting in the closure of at least 13 health care facilities in southern Idlib, according to the UN. Priority humanitarian needs for those displaced include food, health, shelter, and winterization assistance, as well as basic supplies such as winter clothes and blankets, according to the UN. Reports of long lines at bakeries, particularly in IDP camps in northwest Idlib, are likely due to the increase in population and demand, OCHA reports. Despite impacts to humanitarian services in southern Idlib—OCHA reports that many humanitarian staff are among the recently displaced—relief actors, including USAID partners, continue working to address emergency needs among IDPs and other conflict-affected people across northwest Syria by conducting rapid needs assessments, providing relief items and food assistance, operating mobile medical clinics, and bolstering water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in areas hosting new arrivals.
- Recent displacement from Idlib has intensified the already significant humanitarian needs in northwest Syria, where an estimated 400,000 people were displaced between late April and late August due to GoRF and SARG airstrikes. The latest wave of displacement exacerbates the vulnerabilities of previously displaced persons, as more people are sheltering in increasingly crowded IDP sites or towns in northern areas of Idlib, adding to protection concerns, OCHA reports. Overall, at least 2.4 million people were displaced across northwest Syria as of early January, according to the UN. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recorded a total of 1,460 conflict-related civilian deaths in northwest Syria from April 29, 2019, to January 5, 2020, including 417 children.
- In addition, heavy rainfall and winter weather conditions continue to impact IDPs in camps across northwest Syria, disrupting humanitarian activities and resulting in flooding, road closures, and damage to shelters in IDP camps and informal settlements, relief actors report. Between December 4 and 9, flooding affected 16 IDP sites in Aleppo's Atareb District and Idlib's Dana, Maarat Tamsrin, and Salqin sub-districts, directly affecting approximately 6,900 people and damaging or destroying at least 800 shelters, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. From December 14 to 16, further flooding affected at least 20 IDP sites in Atareb, Dana, and Maaret Tamsrin, as well as Aleppo's Azaz District and Idlib's Harim District, impacting more than 5,800 people and damaging or destroying at least 1,100 shelters, the CCCM Cluster reports. Additionally, from December 30 to January 2, flooding in Idlib's Armanaz, Atareb, Badama, and Dana sub-districts, as well as Azaz, affected nearly 3,000 people and destroyed approximately 360 tents. In response to the floods, humanitarian actors—including USAID partners—continue to replace damaged shelters and implement flood mitigation measures to lessen the chance of flood-related destruction in the future.

### *Northeast Syria*

- Protection and psychosocial risks remain priority concerns in Al Hasakah Governorate's Al Hol camp, which hosts more than 66,100 people as of January 13, according to OCHA. In recent months, thousands of residents have departed Al Hol, including hundreds of internally displaced Syrians who have returned to places of origin, including Al Hasakah, Dayr az Zawr, and Aleppo governorates. Approximately 96 percent of the current camp population comprises women and children, including an estimated 43,600 children younger than 18 years of age, OCHA reports. UN and NGO partners continue to provide psychosocial support, family reunification, and gender-based violence awareness activities for women and children in Al Hol.
- As of December 18, nearly 70,600 people remained displaced from and within Aleppo, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqa governorates as a result of hostilities in northeast Syria in recent months, while more than 129,000 people had returned to areas of origin due to relatively improved security conditions in those areas, according to the UN. Previously, military operations in northeast Syria displaced more than 200,000 people in October.

## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- In response to the increased displacement in Idlib and Aleppo, USAID/FFP partner WFP provided approximately 126,400 recently displaced persons with ready-to-eat rations—covering emergency food needs for a period of five days and designed to assist people recently displaced or in transit—from December 17 to January 9. In addition, the UN agency reached more than 1 million people in northwest Syria with emergency food assistance during December, representing approximately 97 percent of the monthly target; WFP was unable to reach the remaining 3 percent of targeted beneficiaries, or approximately 32,400 people, due to insecurity near Ma'arrat An-Numan. The UN agency also provided nutrition assistance to approximately 65,000 children during the month and has prepositioned ready-to-eat rations sufficient to meet the needs of approximately 567,600 people in Aleppo and Idlib and approximately 150,000 people in Turkey, in preparation for additional conflict-driven displacement in northwest Syria.
  - Countrywide, WFP reached approximately 4.5 million people with food assistance in December, including regular deliveries inside Syria and through the cross-border operation from Turkey. Additionally, during November, WFP reached more than 4.4 million people with food assistance across all 14 governorates in Syria; more than 20 percent of total assistance was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to reach areas of Syria not accessible cross-line from within the country. The assistance included ready-to-eat rations and emergency food assistance for populations in northeast Syria, reaching nearly 146,000 recently displaced people and host community members in Al Hasakah and Ar Raqqah governorates in November.
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## HEALTH

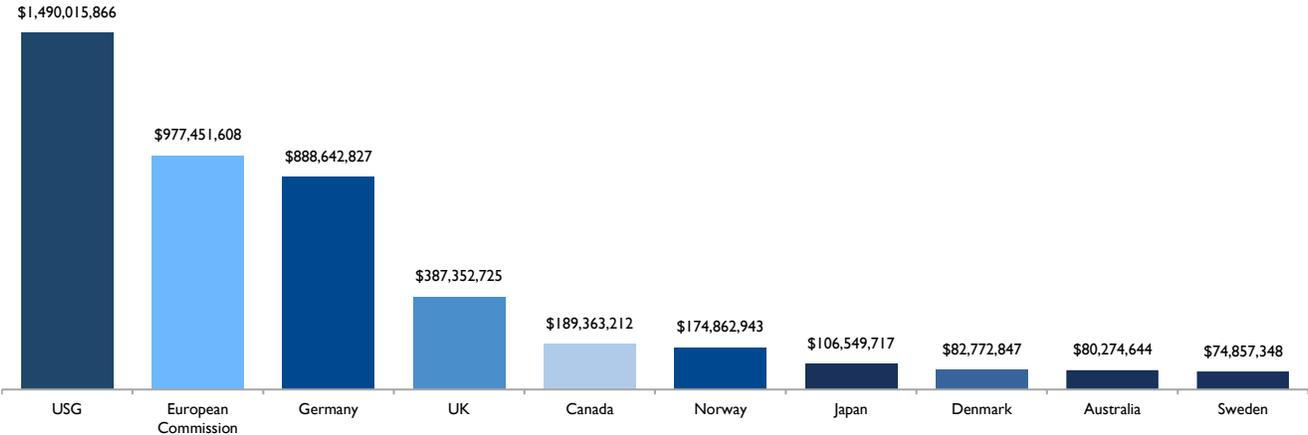
- In response to heightened health needs in northwest Syria, USAID/OFDA partners supported nearly 30 health facilities across the region in November. During the month, USAID/OFDA partners provided more than 135,000 outpatient consultations, provided more than 15,400 trauma consultations, and admitted approximately 8,300 people for hospitalization. USAID/OFDA partners also facilitated more than 1,600 births and provided postnatal care to nearly 1,200 infants. With USAID/OFDA support, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) also provides approximately 330,000 outpatient consultations and more than 11,000 trauma consultations per month.
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## SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

- Since the onset of the winter season in Syria, USAID partners have reached more than 24,800 households—or approximately 139,700 individuals—in Idlib with winter heating kits, shelter tool kits, and insulation kits, as well as cash and vouchers to procure heaters, fuel, and winter clothing. In addition, USAID/OFDA has supported the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to replace and insulate approximately 800 and 4,400 tents, respectively, during the current winter season, as well as provide nearly 9,800 winter heating kits and cold-weather clothing for approximately 49,500 people. Partners have reported some delays in distributions, tent insulation support, and gravelling work due to heavy rains and flooding in the region, as well as heightened fuel prices and fuel shortages.
- In northeast Syria, relief actors—including USAID partners—have commenced or completed heater and first-round fuel distributions for approximately 91,000 people residing in IDP camps as of December 18. Heater distributions, as well as fuel or cash-for-fuel distributions, are also planned or in progress in at least six informal IDP sites hosting nearly 20,000 people. Overall, humanitarian agencies in northeast Syria have provided winterization assistance to more than 102,000 people in out-of-camp settings this winter season. Relief actors are prioritizing the most vulnerable populations during winter distributions, including those in informal settlements and collective centers.
- State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and implementing organizations continue to provide basic assistance and protection services in northwest Syria, utilizing the cross-border operation from Turkey to reach IDPs and vulnerable host community members. In November, UNHCR reached more than 42,700 IDPs with humanitarian assistance, distributing more than 6,000 emergency and winterization non-food item (NFI) kits and approximately 2,000 tents in Aleppo and Idlib. Throughout the month, four cross-border shipments transported approximately 4,500 emergency NFI kits and 3,000 tents through Turkey's Bab al-Hawa border crossing,

assisting more than 40,500 newly displaced people. In coordination with the Shelter and NFI Cluster, UNHCR aims to support approximately 50,000 people with winterization NFI kits—comprising blankets, mattresses, plastic sheeting, solar lamps, and WASH items—during the 2019–2020 winter season; by late November, UNHCR had reached nearly 75 percent of the target population.

**2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\***  
PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of December 31, 2019. All international figures are according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2019 calendar year, while U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FY 2019, which runs from October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019.

**CONTEXT**

- Following the commencement of 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 began responding to demonstrations with violence, leading armed opposition groups (AOGs) to retaliate.
- 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 AOG-held areas of Syria.
- On January 10, 2020, the UNSC adopted UNSC Resolution 2504, authorizing UN cross-border and cross-line delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict-affected populations in Syria. The resolution permits the UN’s use of two border crossings from Turkey for the delivery of humanitarian assistance into Syria for six months, expiring in July 2020. The resolution is a partial renewal of previous cross-border aid resolutions, beginning with UNSC Resolution 2165 on July 14, 2014, which had authorized four border crossings from Turkey, Jordan, and Iraq.
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates approximately 438,000 Palestinian refugees remain in Syria, representing a decrease from the 560,000 people registered with UNRWA prior to the conflict. Intense fighting in and around some Palestinian camps and neighborhoods has significantly affected Palestinian refugees in Syria. Syria also hosts an estimated 34,000 Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers, as well as more than 3,200 refugee persons of concern from other countries.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2019<sup>1</sup>**

| <b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>   | <b>ACTIVITY</b>   | <b>LOCATION</b>                                     | <b>AMOUNT</b>          |
|---|---|---|------------------------|
| <b>USAID/OFDA</b>   |   |   |                        |
| NGO Partners  | Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Syria   | \$178,211,423          |
| International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) | HCIM, Health, Shelter and Settlements   | Syria   | \$3,001,725            |
| IOM   | ERMS, HCIM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH   | Syria   | \$20,187,224           |
| OCHA  | HCIM  | Syria   | \$4,625,000            |
| UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)   | HCIM, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH   | Syria   | \$19,000,000           |
| UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)                            | HCIM  | Syria   | \$997,229              |
| WHO   | Health  | Syria   | \$20,825,517           |
|   | Program Support   | Syria   | \$3,094,005            |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>   |   |   | <b>\$249,942,123</b>   |
| <b>USAID/FFP</b>  |   |   |                        |
| NGO Partners  | Cash Transfers for Food; ERMS; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Complementary Services   | Syria   | \$155,388,486          |
| IOM   | LRIP  | Syria   | 3,015,000              |
| WFP   | Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP, Nutrition, Complementary Services   | Syria   | \$120,000,000          |
| WFP   | Food Vouchers   | Egypt   | \$18,000,000           |
| WFP   | Food Vouchers   | Iraq  | \$6,000,000            |
| WFP   | Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers  | Jordan  | \$74,000,000           |
| WFP   | Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers  | Lebanon   | \$86,000,000           |
| WFP   | Food Vouchers   | Turkey  | \$13,000,000           |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>  |   |   | <b>\$475,403,486</b>   |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>  |   |   |                        |
| NGO Partners  | Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, Shelter, WASH   | Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey         | \$95,147,597           |
| Implementing Partner (IP)   | Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH   | Jordan, Lebanon, Syria                              | \$60,100,000           |
| IOM   | Border Transport, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities  | Iraq, Jordan, Turkey                                | \$15,600,000           |
| International Labor Organization (ILO)                                  | Livelihoods   | Jordan  | \$2,222,660            |
| UN Development Program (UNDP)   | Livelihoods, Shelter and Settlements, WASH  | Lebanon   | \$2,000,000            |
| UNHCR   | Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH   | Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Region | \$413,900,000          |
| UNICEF  | Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs  | Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey                | \$173,200,000          |
| WHO   | Health  | Iraq  | \$2,500,000            |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>  |   |   | <b>\$764,670,257</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2019</b> |   |   | <b>\$1,490,015,866</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding reflects publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2019.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2019

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING  | \$1,950,692,988         |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING   | \$3,287,437,637         |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING   | \$5,260,812,775         |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2019</b> | <b>\$10,498,943,400</b> |

### 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 [www.interaction.org](http://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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>