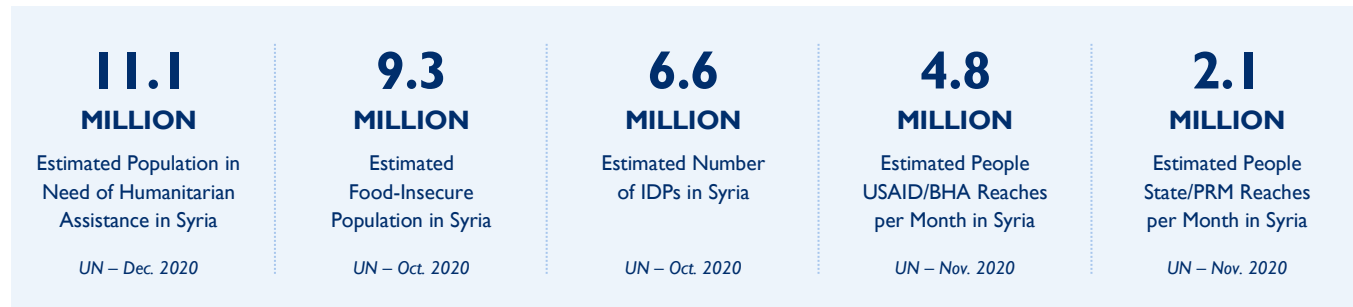


Syria – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 18, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Syria’s ongoing economic crisis continues to impact food security as food prices reach record high in October; relief actors track rising malnutrition in northwest Syria.
- As Syria’s COVID-19 outbreak surpasses 36,000 confirmed cases, humanitarian agencies warn that a lack of testing capacity obscures the full extent of transmission.
- USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners provide life-saving food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance, along with critical winterization support to IDPs and vulnerable host communities.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2020	USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$6,153,700,050
	State/PRM ³	\$6,050,511,437
Total		\$12,204,211,487⁴

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

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

² Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴ Total includes \$140,827,684 supplemental FY 2020 funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Food Prices Reach Record High in October

Syria's ongoing economic crisis continues to adversely affect food security conditions, raising food prices in October to the highest monthly level recorded since 2013, the year when the UN World Food Program (WFP) began collecting food price data in Syria. The national average food basket price increased nearly 250 percent from October 2019 to October 2020. According to WFP data, nearly 50 percent of all households reported poor and borderline food consumption levels in October, a more than 40 percent increase since June and a two-fold increase compared to October 2019. As the Syrian Pound depreciates, rising food costs are straining household purchasing power and prompting families to adopt negative coping strategies, such as relying on less expensive food, eating fewer meals per day, and prioritizing child food consumption needs while restricting adult food consumption.

Malnutrition Rising in Northwest Syria

Nutrition conditions deteriorated in northwest Syria during 2020, according to health facility nutrition surveillance data collected by the Nutrition Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian nutrition activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Approximately 34 percent of children younger than five years of age were experiencing impaired growth and development due to a sub-optimal nutrition environment—a condition known as stunting—as of October, representing an increase of 5 percent since January. Additionally, the number of children requiring hospitalization for complications from severe acute malnutrition between January and October 2020 was three times higher than admissions during the same period in 2019. Maternal malnutrition remains a significant public health issue in the region, particularly in areas of displacement, where an estimated 20 to 37 percent of pregnant and lactating women were malnourished as of October, according to the cluster. The Nutrition Cluster warns that several factors could worsen nutrition conditions in 2021, including the continued spread of COVID-19—which has affected health facilities, where nutrition assistance is often provided—and the ongoing impact of the economic crisis on food insecurity.

In response, the Nutrition Cluster continues to support nearly 150 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs)—mobile teams comprised of technical specialists—to provide integrated nutrition programming in northwest Syria. From January to October, the RRTs provided nutrition services to nearly 818,000 people, including approximately 417,500 pregnant and lactating women and 400,500 children ages 6–59 months. Nutrition assistance includes high energy biscuits for the prevention of acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplements, and treatment for moderate and severe acute malnutrition.

COVID-19 Outbreak Surpasses 36,000 Confirmed Cases

The cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria currently exceeds 36,000, including more than 1,000 deaths, as of December 18. To date, health actors report nearly 19,200 confirmed COVID-19 cases in opposition-held areas of northwest Syria and nearly 7,700 COVID-19 cases in northeast Syria, while the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) Ministry of Health reports more than 9,700 cases in SARG-held areas of Syria. However, UN agencies continue to warn that the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases likely represents a fraction of actual caseloads, as the majority of confirmed cases are of untraced or unknown origin and testing capacity remains limited countrywide. In northeast Syria, the UN reports that a reduction in new confirmed COVID-19 cases in recent weeks is likely attributable to low surveillance capacity and decreased testing. In SARG-held areas, humanitarian agencies continue to receive reports of hospitals unable to receive all suspected cases, as well as

continued community stigma and reluctance to receive treatment at hospitals, the UN reports. Meanwhile, in northwest Syria, a sharp increase in COVID-19 prevalence since early November has resulted in a lack of available space to isolate and monitor suspected COVID-19 cases in health facilities, according to the UN.

Syria's ongoing COVID-19 outbreak continues to stress health care capacity. A mid-November UN COVID-19 rapid assessment emphasized that COVID-19-related medical services remain critically insufficient across Syria, with severe shortages in health facility capacity, quarantine spaces, and testing across the majority of the country. Moreover, health workers remain at heightened risk of exposure and transmission, often due to a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) availability in some areas. As of December 8, nearly 240 health workers had tested positive for COVID-19 in SARG-held areas, including 12 resultant deaths, according to UN reports. In northwest Syria, medical professionals, community health workers, and other health facility staff represent approximately 12 percent of total cases.

Health actors across northern Syria also continue to track the spread of COVID-19 in displacement camps and informal settlements. As of December 9, a total of 25 COVID-19 cases had been confirmed in northeast Syria camps, including 13 in Al Hasakah Governorate's Al Hol camp. In northwest Syria, cases in camps represent approximately 10 percent of the region's overall case total as of December 18. Relief actors in northwest Syria are bolstering community outreach activities in and around camps while also prioritizing camps in community-based COVID-19 screening.

Cross-Border Operations Maintain Critical Assistance in Northwest Syria

From October 1 to November 13, more than 1,300 trucks transported UN humanitarian assistance through Turkey's Bab al-Hawa crossing to northwest Syria, according to the Logistics Cluster. The total includes more than 940 trucks during October—representing an increase from 845 trucks during September—transporting UN food, health, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. From January to October, the UN recorded more than 10,730 trucks transporting UN assistance from Turkey to northern Syria; more than 90 percent of the cargo was food security-related assistance, followed by 6 percent shelter, 3 percent health, and 1 percent WASH support. UN cross-border operations remain essential to supporting the estimated 2.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the region, as well as vulnerable host communities.

KEY FIGURES



5.9 Million

Number of people USAID/BHA reaches with monthly food assistance in Syria and neighboring countries

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and 15 NGOs to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance within Syria and to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. In Syria, USAID/BHA partners provide monthly food rations; wheat flour and yeast to bakeries; food vouchers; cash for food; and emergency nutritional products. USAID/BHA-funded assistance also supports the provision of food vouchers and cash transfers for Syrian refugees. WFP and USAID/BHA-funded NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to more than 5.9 million Syrians, including more than 4.8 million people inside Syria and 1.1 million refugees across Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.



5 Million

Number of people reached by USAID/BHA-supported health assistance during FY 2020

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 10 partners, including UNICEF, to provide life-saving health assistance in Syria. USAID/BHA-supported activities include community-based health education, direct health care services through mobile medical units, provision of equipment for health care facilities, and training for Syrian medical workers. Additionally, USAID/BHA is supporting UNICEF and three NGOs to bolster COVID-19 health response capacity in Syria by establishing primary health care services in areas with limited health infrastructure, providing equipment to intensive care units and isolation facilities, and promoting effective infection prevention and control practices. USAID/BHA partners have also adapted programming across sectors to incorporate physical distancing and are disseminating public health and prevention messaging as part of COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides medical consultations and facilitates community-based health programming at 26 community center clinics and 11 UNHCR-run primary health care facilities in Syria. From January to October 2020, these UNHCR centers provided medical consultations to 188,000 individuals and coordinated community-based health programs for more than 88,000 individuals. UNHCR is also working to provide PPE and sanitation supplies to community centers, distribution sites, and health facilities in Syria. In support of the COVID-19 response in Syria, UNHCR reached 854,000 people with awareness campaigns and community training from March to October and continues to provide key facilities with PPE.



12

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

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 10 NGO partners, as well as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF, 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 increase access to safe drinking water through emergency water trucking and the distribution of water storage tanks and water treatment devices. Further, USAID/BHA is supporting UNICEF and four NGOs to bolster COVID-19 response capacity in Syria by increasing water trucking frequency to provide additional water for handwashing and cleaning and distributing additional soap and other WASH commodities to beneficiaries.

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR identifies protection cases, provides referrals to legal aid services, and facilitates community-based protection interventions for conflict-affected and displaced Syrians. With State/PRM support, UNHCR also conducts psychosocial support sessions and awareness-raising



1 Million

Number of people reached by State/PRM-supported protection assistance in Syria from January to October 2020

sessions on civil status documentation and housing, land, and property issues; legal counseling and assistance; case management; and referrals. UNHCR manages more than 100 community centers countrywide and has trained more than 2,700 outreach volunteers on protection issues. From January to October 2020, UNHCR provided protection services to more than 1 million people across Syria.

USAID/BHA's 13 protection partners, including UNICEF, provide psychosocial support, learning and recreational opportunities, and case management and referral services 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 survivors of gender-based violence, throughout Syria.



820,000

Number of people in northwest Syria reached by State/PRM-supported shelter assistance from January to October 2020

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA supports 13 partners, including IOM and UNICEF, to distribute shelter materials and basic household items and conduct shelter rehabilitation activities in Syria. In advance of and during the winter season, USAID/BHA partners distribute emergency shelter and relief items, such as blankets, fuel, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, sleeping mats, tents, and winter clothing. Additionally, in northern Syria, USAID/BHA partners establish and maintain IDP camps, rehabilitate existing IDP camps and collective centers, and distribute emergency shelter items.

Further, State/PRM support to UNHCR facilitates the distribution of relief commodities, hygiene kits, and tents to IDPs and host community members in Syria. From January to October 2020, UNHCR reached 998,000 people with relief commodities and 135,000 with shelter assistance from within Syria. Since January, UNHCR's cross-border assistance has also reached approximately 155,000 people with core relief items and more than 820,000 people with shelter support. Additionally, UNHCR has reached more than 199,000 people across Syria with winterization assistance and will continue to deliver assistance through the upcoming months.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Following the commencement of 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 has 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 July 11, 2020, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted UNSC Resolution 2533, 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 Turkey’s Bab al-Hawa crossing for the delivery of humanitarian assistance into Syria for one year, expiring in July 2021. 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
SYRIA			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Monitoring and Evaluation; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$197,748,574
IOM	MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$19,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Syria	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	HCIM, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$12,251,803

UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health	Syria	\$18,000,000
		Program Support	\$1,010,552
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$252,010,929
Food Assistance ²			
IPs	Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers; HCIM; Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Complementary Services	Syria	\$190,264,015
WFP	Food Vouchers, LRIP, Nutrition, Complementary Services	Syria	\$235,000,000
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$425,264,015
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$677,274,944
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Emergency Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$37,200,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$104,910,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$142,110,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2020			\$819,384,944

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES IN FY 2020

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Egypt	\$20,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$20,500,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Child Protection, Education, Health, Mental Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance	Egypt	\$1,772,905
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities	Egypt	\$12,410,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, Youth Programs	Egypt	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$16,182,905
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2020			\$36,682,905
USAID/BHA			

Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Iraq	\$9,452,496
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$9,452,496
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, WASH	Iraq	\$11,914,051
IOM	Durable Solutions, Education, Information Coordination, Livelihoods, Social Cohesion	Iraq	\$1,838,609
UNHCR	CCCM, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$35,810,000
UNICEF	Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, WASH	Iraq	\$1,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$51,162,660
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN IRAQ IN FY 2020			\$60,615,156
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Jordan	\$63,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN IN FY 2020			\$63,000,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$24,454,419
International Labor Organization (ILO)	Livelihoods	Jordan	\$2,491,223
IOM	Cash-Based Programming, Transportation	Jordan	\$3,500,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$66,080,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Jordan	\$25,540,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN JORDAN IN FY 2020			\$122,065,642
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2020			\$185,065,642
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$80,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON IN FY 2020			\$80,000,000
STATE/PRM			

IPs	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$31,713,855
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$117,700,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Lebanon	\$78,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN LEBANON IN FY 2020			\$227,513,855
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2020			\$307,513,855
USAID/BHA			
Food Assistance			
WFP	Food Vouchers	Turkey	\$8,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN TURKEY IN FY 2020			\$8,000,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Capacity Building, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Turkey	\$29,982,393
ILO	Livelihoods	Turkey	\$9,345,508
IOM	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Psychosocial Support, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Turkey	\$11,200,000
UNHCR	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Turkey	\$55,620,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Turkey	\$39,530,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TURKEY IN FY 2020			\$145,677,901
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TURKEY IN FY 2020			\$153,677,901
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection	Regional	\$1,500,000
TOTAL REGIONAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$1,500,000
TOTAL REGIONAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$1,500,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020³

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$858,227,440
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$706,212,963
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2020	\$1,564,440,403

USG FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE⁴

USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
NGOs	ERMS, HCIM, Health, MPCA, WASH	Syria	\$19,091,985
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Syria	\$5,900,000
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$24,991,985
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, LRIP	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon	\$32,350,000
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING IN FY 2020			\$32,350,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$57,341,985
STATE/PRM			
IP	Health, WASH	Jordan, Syria	\$6,730,000
NGOs	Cash-Based Programming, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, Relief Commodities	Lebanon, Turkey	\$1,287,699
IOM	Cash-Based Programming, Health, Logistics, Protection	Iraq, Jordan, Turkey	\$5,185,000
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey	\$47,163,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey	\$23,120,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$83,485,699
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE FOR SYRIANS IN FY 2020			\$140,827,684

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020⁵

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$6,153,700,050
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$6,050,511,437
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$12,204,211,487

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

² USAID/BHA food assistance funding supports Syrian refugees, non-Syrian refugees, and host community members.

³ This total does not include supplemental FY 2020 funding for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

⁴ Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 30, 2020.

⁵ This total includes supplemental FY 2020 funding for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

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)