

Syria – Complex Emergency

JUNE 28, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

13.4 MILLION	12.4 MILLION	6.7 MILLION	4.8 MILLION	2.1 MILLION
Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria	Estimated Food-Insecure Population in Syria	Estimated Number of IDPs in Syria	Estimated People USAID/BHA Reaches per Month in Syria	Estimated People State/PRM Reaches per Month in Syria
UN – March 2021	UN – December 2020	UN – May 2021	UN – May 2021	UN – November 2020

- The USG announces more than \$436 million in additional funding to support the humanitarian response in Syria and Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.
- The United States, UN, and NGOs advocate for continued UN cross-border humanitarian assistance deliveries into Syria.
- Airstrikes and artillery shelling destroy Al Shifaa hospital in Aleppo and a White Helmets facility in western Hamah, resulting in aid worker and civilian casualties.
- Nearly 40 percent of households in Syria report inadequate food consumption in May.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$6,826,746,693
	State/PRM ²	\$6,648,801,622
	Total	\$13,475,548,315

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

USG Announces More Than \$436 Million in New Funding for the Syria Crisis

During the June 28 Defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (D-ISIS) Coalition Ministerial Meeting in Rome, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced more than \$436 million in additional USAID/BHA and State/PRM funding to support the humanitarian response in Syria and Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. The new assistance will reinforce support for internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Syria and the region by providing emergency cash, education, food, health, livelihood, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. At the Syria Ministerial Meeting, held on the margins of the D-ISIS Coalition Ministerial Meeting, Secretary Blinken—along with the Ministers and representatives of Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and representatives of the League of Arab States and European Union—emphasized the importance of meeting humanitarian needs in Syria, including through the provision and expansion of UN cross-border assistance. Since the onset of the crisis in 2012, the USG has provided nearly \$13.5 billion in humanitarian assistance to help Syrians in need.

UN, NGOs Advocate to Renew Authorization for Cross-Border Assistance

Former UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock, along with the directors of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN World Food Program (WFP), and UN World Health Organization (WHO), released a joint statement on June 18 emphasizing the critical role of cross-border access in facilitating humanitarian response activities in northwest Syria. The statement called for the 12-month renewal of UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2533, which provides authorization for UN cross-border assistance via Turkey’s Bab al-Hawa border crossing into northwest Syria. The statement warns that the UNSC’s failure to renew the resolution in advance of the July 10 expiration date will result in an immediate suspension of UN humanitarian assistance—including coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines, food, medical supplies, and protection, shelter, and WASH assistance—affecting up to 3.4 million people in northwest Syria, including 1 million children.

While the UN continues to seek permissions from various authorities to enable the start of cross-line humanitarian convoys into northwest Syria, the scale and reach of cross-line assistance would be insufficient to match that of cross-border operations, the joint statement notes. Bab al-Hawa is the last remaining border crossing authorized for UN cross-border assistance into Syria, following the expiration of UN authorization to utilize Turkey’s Bab al-Salama crossing into Aleppo Governorate and Iraq’s Al Yaroubia–Rabia crossing into Al Hasakah Governorate in July 2020 and January 2020, respectively.

The joint UN statement follows various non-governmental organization (NGO) statements advocating for the reauthorization of cross-border assistance, including a June 10 statement issued by NGO the International Rescue Committee. The statement, co-signed by an additional 41 NGOs, warns that the UNSC’s failure to reauthorize cross-border access into northwest Syria would compromise food assistance for more than 1 million people and hinder the delivery of critical medical supplies and other life-saving assistance to the region. The statement indicates that NGOs lack the capacity to match the scale and scope of UN cross-border food assistance deliveries in particular, noting that WFP provides food baskets to approximately 1.4 million people each month through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing.

Should the UN lose authorization to conduct cross-border humanitarian assistance deliveries into Syria, NGOs estimate that they would only have the capacity to scale up programming to meet the needs of approximately 300,000 people, leaving the majority of those in need without assistance.

Attack on Al Shifaa Hospital Results in Aid Worker, Civilian Casualties

Missiles and artillery struck the Al Shifaa Hospital in Aleppo's Afrin city on June 12, resulting in the deaths of at least 13 people—including four aid workers—and injuring at least 11 hospital staff members, according to the UN. The attacks fully destroyed the hospital's emergency department and delivery room and partially damaged the outpatient clinic, prompting the hospital to cease operations and evacuate patients to nearby facilities. Al Shifaa Hospital is one of the largest medical facilities in northern Syria, providing an average of 15,000 medical services each month, including 350 newborn deliveries and 250 specialized surgeries, according to relief actors.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria Imran Riza and UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis Muhannad Hadi released a statement on June 13 strongly condemning the attack on the hospital. The U.S. Department of State also issued a statement on June 13 denouncing the violence and calling for an immediate ceasefire countrywide. Relief actors report that humanitarians had previously shared the hospital's coordinates through the UN-led deconfliction mechanism, which the UN and other humanitarian organizations use to share coordinates with conflict actors in an effort to protect civilian and humanitarian sites, such as health facilities, IDP camps, and relief agency offices and convoys. However, Al Shifaa hospital has been struck during hostilities three times since 2019, with the most recent attack marking the 11th of such attacks on health facilities and medical staff in Syria since January 2021 alone, the UN reports.

Artillery Attack in Hamah Results in the Death of an SCD Volunteer

The Syrian Civil Defense (SCD)—also known as the White Helmets—reported that one volunteer died and three others were injured as a result of a June 19 artillery attack in western Hamah Governorate. The White Helmets issued a statement condemning the shelling—which occurred near the conflict front lines in neighboring southern Idlib Governorate—noting that the attack destroyed the organization's emergency service and rescue center in the area, rendering it inoperable. The latest attack brings the number of SCD volunteers who have died while responding to the Syria crisis to 290 volunteers, according to the statement. The security situation in southern Idlib has deteriorated in recent months due to an increase in airstrikes and artillery shelling in April and May, which has resulted in multiple civilian casualties and regional displacement, according to relief actors.

Nearly 40 Percent of Households Report Inadequate Food Consumption

Nearly 40 percent of interviewed households across Syria reported poor or borderline food consumption during May—representing a 61 percent increase compared to May 2020—according to WFP's May mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping report (mVAM). The highest proportions of food-insecure households were in Ar Raqqa Governorate—where 60 percent of the population is food-insecure—and Aleppo Governorate—where 48 percent of the population is food-insecure, according to the mVAM assessment. Female-headed households are disproportionately affected, with poor or borderline food consumption reported among 44 percent of those interviewed. Additionally, 89 percent of surveyed households reported utilizing at least one negative food-based coping mechanism during May, such as adults reducing food consumption to prioritize children's food needs. Relief actors have underscored that low water levels in Syria's Euphrates River due to drought threatens to worsen food security across the country, as the low river levels have limited access to water for crop irrigation, likely

diminishing harvest yields in the coming months. Overall, approximately 12.4 million people were food-insecure across Syria as of early 2021, WFP reports.

KEY FIGURES



5.9 Million

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



5 Million

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



14

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports UNICEF, WFP, and 17 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.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 12 partners, including UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO, to provide critical health assistance in Syria, cumulatively supporting approximately 480 health facilities. USAID/BHA-supported activities include community-based health education, direct health services through mobile medical units, provision of equipment for health facilities, reproductive health services, and training for Syrian medical workers. USAID/BHA is supporting additional 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 and isolation facilities, and promoting effective infection prevention and control practices.

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides medical consultations and facilitates community-based health programming at 26 community center clinics and 11 UNHCR-run primary health facilities in Syria and distributes masks and sanitation supplies to community centers throughout the country to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. State/PRM also supports UNHCR, UNICEF, and 9 NGO partners to provide health assistance including medical consultations, vaccinations, and specialized health services to refugees in neighboring countries.

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 12 NGO partners, as well as 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 additional NGOs to bolster COVID-19 response capacity in Syria by increasing water trucking frequency to communities and IDP distribution points, providing additional water for handwashing and cleaning, and distributing soap and other WASH commodities. State/PRM also supports partners to provide safe drinking water for Syrian refugees, including one NGO partner in Iraq and Lebanon and one international organization partner in Jordan.



1 Million

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

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 both in Syria and in neighboring countries. With State/PRM support, UNHCR manages more than 90 community centers throughout Syria, providing psychosocial support services, legal counseling, and case management and referrals. From January to March, UNHCR provided protection assistance to approximately 290,000 people. State/PRM also supports IOM, UNICEF, and 28 NGO partners to provide protection assistance, including legal documentation and case management services, for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.

USAID/BHA funds 14 protection partners, including IOM, UNFPA, and UNICEF, to 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 at least 90 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 (GBV), throughout Syria.



1 Million

Number of people in northwest Syria reached by State/PRM-supported shelter and relief commodity assistance in 2020

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA supports 14 partners, including IOM, to distribute shelter materials and basic household items and conduct shelter rehabilitation activities in Syria. 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 March, UNHCR reached nearly 15,000 beneficiaries with shelter assistance in Syria. State/PRM also supports IOM, UNHCR, and 4 NGO partners to provide shelter and relief commodities to refugees in neighboring countries.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Following the commencement of peaceful demonstrations against the Syrian Arab Republic Government (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, ISIS captured significant areas of Syria, adding additional complexity to the multi-actor conflict. In March 2019, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced the capture of the last ISIS strongholds in Syria.
- On July 11, 2020, the 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 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
SYRIA			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, International Procurement (LRIP), Vouchers; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$245,650,848
IOM	HCIMA, MPCA, Natural Hazards and Technical Risks, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$15,000,000

UNFPA	Health, MPCA, Protection	Syria	\$13,400,351
UNICEF	HCIMA, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$5,538,463
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Syria	\$2,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—LRIP, Vouchers; HCIMA; Nutrition	Syria	\$217,180,000
Program Support		Syria	\$416,981
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$499,186,643
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Emergency Food Assistance, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$34,500,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$110,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$144,800,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2021			\$643,986,643

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES IN FY 2021 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
EGYPT			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Egypt	\$20,280,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EGYPT			\$20,280,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Child Protection, Education, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance	Egypt	\$446,939
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities	Egypt	\$12,790,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention, Health, Nutrition, Youth Programs	Egypt	\$4,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EGYPT			\$17,436,939
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2021			\$37,716,939
IRAQ			
STATE/PRM			

UNHCR	CCCM, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$30,290,000
UNICEF	Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, WASH	Iraq	\$1,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN IRAQ			\$31,890,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN IRAQ IN FY 2021			\$31,890,000
JORDAN			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers	Jordan	\$72,800,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$72,800,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$4,270,103
UNHCR	CCCM, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$92,143,600
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Jordan	\$22,160,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$118,573,703
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2021			\$191,373,703
LEBANON			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers	Lebanon	\$70,000,000
Program Support			\$20,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$70,020,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Cash-Based Programming, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$9,373,143
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$121,366,400
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Lebanon	\$52,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$182,739,543
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2021			\$252,759,543
TURKEY			

USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Vouchers	Turkey	\$10,760,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN TURKEY			\$10,760,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Turkey	\$2,500,000
IOM	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Psychosocial Support, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Turkey	\$5,800,000
UNHCR	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Turkey	\$62,180,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Turkey	\$24,870,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TURKEY			\$95,350,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TURKEY IN FY 2021			\$106,110,000
REGIONAL			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection	Regional	\$7,500,000
TOTAL REGIONAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$7,500,000
TOTAL REGIONAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$7,500,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2021

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$673,046,643
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$598,290,185
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$1,271,336,828

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2021

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2021	\$6,826,746,693
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2021	\$6,648,801,622
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2021	\$13,475,548,315

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 28, 2021.

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)