



SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #19, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

JULY 17, 2014

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

10.8 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria
U.N. – June 2014

6.4 million

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Syria
U.N. – June 2014

2.9 million

Syrian Refugees in Neighboring Countries
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – July 2014

1,127,513

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
UNHCR – July 2014

799,457

Syrian Refugees in Turkey
UNHCR – July 2014

606,716

Syrian Refugees in Jordan
UNHCR – July 2014

220,210

Syrian Refugees in Iraq
UNHCR – July 2014

138,292

Syrian Refugees in Egypt
UNHCR – July 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Syria conflict death toll exceeded 170,000 as of early July, and violence displaced an estimated 688,000 people from April to June.
- The U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution authorizing U.N. cross-border and cross-line assistance without SARG approval on July 14.
- The U.N. and its partners provided aid to the besieged town of Madamiyet Elsham, Rif Damascus Governorate, for the first time since late 2012.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO SYRIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FY 2012 – FY 2014

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$437,297,611
USAID/FFP ²	\$706,597,940
State/PRM ³	\$885,958,549

\$ 2,029,854,100
TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG)
ASSISTANCE TO THE SYRIA
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On July 14, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing U.N. cross-border and cross-line delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict-affected populations without the need for approval from the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG). The new resolution permits the U.N.'s use of four border crossings from Turkey, Jordan, and Iraq—in addition to other crossings already in use by U.N. agencies—for delivery of humanitarian assistance into Syria. The resolution also establishes a monitoring mechanism—under the authority of U.N. Secretary-General (UNSG) Ban Ki-moon and with the consent of the neighboring countries—to ensure that deliveries across these border points contain only humanitarian items.
- Heavy fighting, widespread destruction, and attacks on residential areas continue to contribute to deaths and population displacement in Syria. Between April and June, violence displaced approximately 688,000 people, primarily in Dayr az Zawr and Idlib governorates, with smaller-scale displacements in Aleppo, Al Hasakah, Dar'a, Latakia, and Rif Damascus governorates, according to a quarterly humanitarian situation analysis published on July 3 by the Syria Needs Analysis Project. In addition, the U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reports that the conflict had resulted in approximately 171,500 deaths as of July 8. The total death toll comprises approximately 56,500 civilians; 65,800 SARG soldiers and pro-SARG militia personnel; 46,300 fighters from opposition groups and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL); and 2,900 unidentified individuals.
- For the first time since October 2012, the U.N. and its partners delivered food, household items, and hygiene supplies to approximately 5,000 people in the besieged town of Madamiyet Elsham, Rif Damascus Governorate, on July 14. Two U.N. partner mobile clinics also provided medical services to area residents until their supplies were depleted. The U.N. is

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

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

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

continuing aid delivery for three additional consecutive days with the aim of reaching a total of approximately 20,000 people

- On July 10, UNSG Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Staffan de Mistura, previously Special Representative of the UNSG in Iraq and in Afghanistan, as U.N. Special Envoy for Syria. Special Envoy de Mistura is assuming the role from Lakhdar Brahimi, who resigned in May. UNSG Ban also appointed Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, head of the mission of the League of Arab States to Austria, as the Deputy Special Envoy for Syria.
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HUMANITARIAN ACCESS & INTERNAL POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

- As of mid-July, ISIL's area of influence had expanded to include approximately half of the city of Dayr az Zawr, according to international media. In recent weeks, ISIL has gained control of key areas of Dayr az Zawr Governorate, particularly the area between Dayr az Zawr city and the Iraq border, which includes the cities of Al Mayadin and Abu Kamal. International media also reported that ISIL fighters forcibly displaced approximately 60,000 people from the towns of Khusham, Shahil, and Tabyeh in eastern Dayr az Zawr governorate as they advanced in early July.
 - Active conflict and fluid conflict frontlines are hindering humanitarian access to those in need and affecting relief operations in Dayr az Zawr Governorate, according to USG partners working in the area. In early July, fighting between SARG forces, ISIL, and armed opposition groups forced one USG-funded non-governmental organization (NGO) to temporarily suspend health activities in the governorate. Intense fighting also prevented the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) from delivering food assistance to nearly 300,000 people residing in Dayr az Zawr Governorate in June.
 - Between July 7 and 13, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) regained daily access to the besieged Yarmouk neighborhood, located near Syria's capital city of Damascus, for the first time since late May. During this period, UNRWA provided food items, vitamin supplements, re-hydration salts, and other relief supplies to more than 3,300 families in Yarmouk. On July 14 and 15, SARG authorities halted UNRWA aid distributions, noting that UNRWA will be permitted to resume relief operations following food parcel distributions by Palestinian charities. UNRWA resumed relief operations in Yarmouk on July 16, distributing 600 food parcels and 3,000 polio vaccine doses among other relief supplies.
 - Due to overland access challenges, UNHCR commenced a series of daily airlifts on July 9 to deliver humanitarian assistance from Damascus to the city of Qamishli in Syria's northeastern Al Hasakah Governorate. Intended to benefit approximately 50,000 Syrian IDPs, the aid includes 50,000 blankets, 30,000 sleeping mats, 10,000 hygiene kits, and 10,000 kitchen sets. Due to access challenges, WFP is also considering the resumption of emergency airlifts of food aid to Al Hasakah Governorate due to inability to access the area by road.
 - Amidst conflict and insecurity, USG partners are working through all available channels to reach crisis-affected people in opposition-held, SARG-controlled, and contested areas of Syria and have provided humanitarian assistance to 4.7 million people across Syria's 14 governorates since March 2011.
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AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

- In June, USG partner WFP delivered food assistance to more than 3.4 million people across Syria, fulfilling 81 percent of its food distribution plan for the month. June distribution figures represent a 4 percent improvement since May, when newly implemented SARG administrative requirements for humanitarian deliveries significantly delayed WFP deliveries.
- A USG NGO partner delivered 3,500 family food rations to Syria's Al Hasakah Governorate during the first weeks of July. Each ration contains staple commodities, such as rice, bulgur, and lentils, and is sufficient to cover approximately 60 percent of kilocalorie requirements for a family of five for one month.
- In early July, a USG-funded NGO distributed approximately 940 one-month family food rations in the city of Dar'a, where needs are high due to persistent insecurity. The food parcels supplement USG-supported flour deliveries, which have intermittently reached bakeries in Dar'a since mid-2013.
- In preparation for a possible SARG siege of opposition-held areas in the city of Aleppo, humanitarian actors are coordinating the delivery and warehousing of 120,000 food baskets. As of July 10, relief organizations had delivered

more than 11,900 food baskets into the city for local council distribution, as well as 15,800 food baskets for warehousing.

HEALTH

- In early July, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that SARG interference in the provision of essential life-saving medicines and surgical equipment to contested areas and areas held by non-SARG forces remained the predominant challenge to the delivery of trauma care in Syria between April and June. According to WHO, the SARG routinely denies inclusion of injectable medicines, antiseptics, psychotropic medicines, surgical supplies, and diarrheal treatment kits in medical shipments designated for opposition-held areas.
 - With USG support, WHO continues to respond to deteriorating health conditions in Syria as conflict disrupts health care services and contributes to shortages of essential medicines, supplies, and qualified health care workers. From April through June, WHO provided health care services and distributed medicines and medical equipment to respond to the needs of more than 2.5 million Syrians, while approximately 2.9 million children under five years of age across Syria's 14 governorates received polio vaccinations through efforts by WHO and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). In addition, WHO trained approximately 3,700 health care workers on first aid, infection control, testing for safe drinking water, and early detection of malnutrition to bolster local capacity to respond to health risks.
 - Despite an increasingly insecure operating environment in northern Syria, a USG-funded NGO provided more than 32,200 consultations at its trauma centers and more than 18,900 consultations at its primary health care facilities in Aleppo, Al Hasaksh, Ar Raqqa, Dayr az Zawr, Idlib, and Latakia governorates in the last week of June. The same partner also supported more than 28,000 trauma care consultations and 6,900 primary health care consultations in Al Qunaytirah and Dar'a governorates during the month of June.
 - Over a one-week period in late June, a USG NGO partner supported more than 950 consultations in health clinics in Ar Raqqa Governorate, including nearly 250 consultations for children under the age of five. Health clinics supported by the USG partner also provided routine immunizations for nearly 620 children during the same period.
 - In mid-July, a USG-supported NGO delivered a one-month supply of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to address the health needs of several villages in Dayr az Zawr Governorate. The NGO plans to send additional supplies to support health services in the cities of Al Mayadin and Dayr az Zawr as security allows.
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WASH

- Recent and increasing interruptions of access to safe drinking water in Syria are exacerbating existing health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) concerns and heightening the risk of outbreaks of water- and food-borne illnesses for hundreds of thousands of crisis-affected people, according to a July 2 statement from WHO and UNICEF. Attempts by armed elements, such as ISIL, to control water resources, in combination with the year's low rainfall amounts and conflict-related damage to water supply and other public infrastructure networks, have contributed to the current deteriorating situation. U.N. agencies are urging a ceasefire agreement to allow access to the Bustan al-Basha neighborhood in the city of Aleppo for critical repairs to water, sewage, and electrical networks damaged during a June 2 explosion. Damages to the networks have left an estimated 2 million people without a regular water supply.
- Residents of the cities of Aleppo and Dayr az Zawr cite water access, quality, and availability among their primary concerns, according to assessments conducted between April and June by REACH, a USG-supported joint initiative of the U.N. Operational Satellite Applications Program (UNOSAT) and NGOs Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and Impact Initiatives. Interviewees highlighted deficiencies in the water network and lack of electricity to operate the water systems as the top challenges affecting clean water availability and access.
- Humanitarian actors, including USG partners, are continuing efforts to address WASH needs for vulnerable populations in Syria, including through the development of strategies to improve identification of and rapid response to needs, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). To prevent and mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks, U.N. agencies and NGOs are working to ensure consistent delivery of water purification supplies, conduct public health and hygiene promotion activities, repair damaged water and sewage networks, and provide adequate medical supplies to affected areas. Since early July, a USG-supported NGO partner has been working

to provide emergency safe drinking water to populations affected by a damaged water treatment plant near the city of Dayr az Zawr.

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Regional

- On July 3, the U.N. released a mid-year update of the 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP6), which adjusted the number of Syrian refugees expected in the region by the end of 2014 from 4.1 million people to 3.6 million—a reduction of approximately 500,000 people, or 12 percent. Accordingly, the RRP6 decreased its funding request by \$520 million, from \$4.2 billion to \$3.74 billion. Of the total revised funding requirements, 54 percent support activities to save lives or prevent immediate risk of harm, 39 percent reflect activities to prevent deterioration of vulnerabilities, and 7 percent cover activities to strengthen capacity and resilience among refugees and host communities.
- In a report released on July 8, UNHCR estimates that a quarter of Syrian refugee households in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon are headed by women. The report highlighted the concerns specific to such households, noting that the primary hardship for female heads of household is obtaining sufficient financial resources to support adequate housing, food, and other essential items for their families. One-third of the 135 women interviewed report having no steady source of financial support, such as paid work or support from relatives. As a result, many have depleted savings and depend entirely on external assistance from UNHCR or other humanitarian actors, and some are forced to send their children to work.
- On July 11, UNHCR requested that European countries accept a greater number of Syrian refugees, noting that Syria's neighboring countries host a disproportionately high percentage of Syrian refugees relative to local populations. For example, with a local population of 4.4 million people, Lebanon alone hosts more than 1.1 million Syrian refugees. Seventeen European countries have offered to resettle approximately 31,800 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees; however, UNHCR is requesting that the European countries host 100,000 Syrian refugees, averaging approximately 3,000 refugees per country.

Egypt

- In June, USG partner UNHCR supported multiple activities to improve the relationship between Egyptian host communities and Syrian refugees, including the creation of a community-designed school playground in the Cairo suburb of Ain Shams. As of July 17, UNHCR reports nearly 138,300 Syrian refugees residing in Egypt.
- In early July, UNHCR supported the opening of a Syrian women's community center, located in greater Cairo and operated by the Syrian Women's Association. The center provides informal education, childcare, and a community gathering space for Syrian women refugees in Egypt.
- During the June distribution cycle, which ended in early July, WFP reached more than 110,100 Syrian refugees in Egypt with food assistance, including approximately 71,000 people in the greater Cairo area and 24,000 people in Alexandria. The USG remains the single largest supporter of the WFP operation serving Syrian refugees.

Iraq

- In early July, UNHCR opened a new camp for Syrian refugees in the city of As Sulaymaniyah in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. UNHCR anticipates the camp could eventually host 10,000 Syrian refugees, including the estimated 3,000 refugees currently residing at the city's Arbat transit camp who will relocate to the new site. Each of the tarpaulin shelters at the new refugee camp has a concrete base to prevent flooding, and every family has its own shower, kitchen, and latrine. The camp also has pre-fabricated schoolrooms, a youth center, and a grocery store. Approximately 220,000 Syrian refugees have fled to Iraq since March 2011, including approximately 24,000 refugees in As Sulaymaniah Governorate.
- During June, WFP provided food assistance to more than 225,400 Syrian refugees at nine refugee camps in the Iraqi Kurdish Region and one camp in Anbar Governorate. Although WFP was able to complete food distribution to all 1,545 beneficiaries at Al Obaidi camp in Anbar on June 2, ongoing conflict between the Government of Iraq and ISIL has recently created significant access constraints, primarily due to the obstruction of principal supply routes.

Jordan

- With USG support, UNICEF and its partners have finalized summer activity plans for Syrian refugee youth in camps and host communities. Activities include remedial and informal classes for students, as well as trainings for Syrian assistant teachers and facilitators. In addition, since January 2014, in order to promote access to inclusive education, a UNICEF implementing partner assisted more than 750 Syrian refugee children with disabilities to integrate into schools across Jordan.
- On July 8, the German ambassador to Jordan announced a new contribution of €10 million—or \$13.6 million—from the Government of Germany to UNICEF in support of the No Lost Generation initiative launched in January 2014. The funding will help provide education, child protection, and youth activities for Syrian refugee children in Jordan in 2014 and 2015. Since 2012, Germany has contributed a total of €45 million, or \$61 million, to UNICEF’s Jordan emergency response program.
- During June, WFP reached more than 536,900 Syrian refugees in Jordan with food assistance. WFP continues to expand the use of electronic food vouchers among Syrian refugees in Jordan, with the transition complete in ten of Jordan’s 12 governorates. Refugees can redeem food vouchers for eligible food items at participating vendors throughout the country.

Lebanon

- As part of a primary health care campaign that began on June 7, UNICEF—in collaboration with the Government of Lebanon Ministry of Public Health and a Lebanese NGO—has vaccinated more than 46,000 Syrian refugee women of child-bearing age against tetanus and approximately 41,500 Syrian refugee children under the age of five against tuberculosis. The primary health care campaign offers free routine immunizations, consultations, and medication for Syrian refugees in all informal settlements and collective centers across Lebanon.
- During June, WFP reached more than 777,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon with food assistance. Of those reached, approximately 751,300 received electronic food vouchers, while the remainder received food rations.

Turkey

- During June, WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) expanded the electronic food voucher program to reach more than 217,000 Syrian refugees—100 percent of the civilian camp population in Turkey. In addition, to address recent concerns about rising prices for refugees, WFP and TRC have set up price monitoring committees in 17 camps.
- In June, USG partner the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) conducted a training on its minimum initial service package—which aims to ensure the availability of priority reproductive health services in an emergency setting—for 30 health professionals, including representatives from GoT Ministry of Public Health Agency and Ministry of Family and Social Policies, in Turkey’s Hatay Province. UNFPA also distributed 3,000 hygiene kits to a women’s center in the southern city of Sanliurfa.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On July 5, the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) announced £46 million—approximately \$77 million—in funding for cross-border humanitarian assistance into Syria. The funding will support food, medical supplies, and shelter for conflict-affected Syrians unreachable by other means, according to international media reports.

CONTEXT

- Following the commencement of peaceful demonstrations against the SARG in March 2011, 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 to retaliate.
- A U.N. Security Council-endorsed peace plan—accepted by the SARG on March 26, 2012—called for a ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian access, and the withdrawal of military personnel from populated areas. The ceasefire never took full effect as clashes between SARG and opposition forces, as well as SARG attacks on demonstrators and populated areas, continued.
- On August 16, 2012, the U.N. elected not to renew the mandate of the U.N. Supervision Mission in Syria, which had suspended operations on June 16 due to increasing levels of violence throughout the country. All U.N. military observers departed Syria in late August 2012.
- 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 (SC). The USG recognized the coalition as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people on December 11, 2012. On March 19, 2013, the SC established the Syrian Interim Government, which opposes the SARG and is based in decentralized locations throughout opposition-held areas of Syria.
- Shortly after its formation, the SC established the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) to coordinate humanitarian aid to Syria. USG, other donors, and NGO representatives meet with the ACU on a regular basis to share information regarding identified needs, current and planned assistance, and challenges to providing aid.
- The U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2139 on February 22, 2014, pressing the SARG and other armed actors to allow unfettered humanitarian access for relief aid workers in Syria. The resolution identified priority areas for emergency relief aid, and the U.N. is releasing monthly reports tracking progress on implementing the resolution's objectives and access gains, as well as persistent access impediments. As of June 16, ERC Amos reported that the resolution had made minimal impact and significant obstacles to access remain.
- Syria hosts approximately 540,000 Palestinian refugees, with more than 80 percent living in and around Damascus. Intense fighting in and around Palestinian camps and neighborhoods has significantly affected Palestinian refugees in Syria. UNRWA estimates that almost all of the 540,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria are directly affected by the conflict and 270,000 are displaced inside the country. Some 80,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria have fled to neighboring countries. Syria also hosts an estimated 39,500 Iraqi refugees, primarily in the greater Damascus area.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2014¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA ²			
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Syria	\$1,000,000
NGO Partners	Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$122,303,574
U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$500,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$22,000,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Syria	\$2,500,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Syria	\$2,500,000
WHO	Health	Syria	\$13,000,000
	Administrative and Support Costs	Syria	\$1,507,856
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$165,311,430

USAID/FFP			
NGO Partners	Food Assistance	Syria	\$35,898,819
WFP	Syria Emergency Operation (EMOP)	Syria	\$99,845,900
WFP	Regional EMOP	Egypt	\$8,000,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Iraq	\$10,000,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Jordan	\$44,750,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Lebanon	\$55,750,000
WFP	Regional EMOP	Turkey	\$22,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$276,244,719
STATE/PRM ³			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Capacity Building, Health, Relief Commodities, Shelter, WASH,	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon	\$31,000,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Border Transport, Health, Relief Commodities	Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt	\$4,600,000
NGO Partners	Education, Health, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Support, Shelter, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq	\$31,674,328
UNFPA	Capacity Building, Mental Health, Protection	Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq	\$1,700,000
UNHCR	Camp Management, Education, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter, WASH	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, Regional	\$104,700,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Protection, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt	\$48,700,000
UNRWA	Education, Food, Health, Relief Commodities, Shelter, WASH	Syria, Jordan, Lebanon	\$28,100,000
WHO	Health	Turkey	\$400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$250,874,328
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2014			\$692,430,477

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹

TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE	\$252,290,317
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE	\$383,353,221
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE	\$582,724,280
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2013	\$1,218,367,818

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE	\$19,695,864
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE	\$47,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE	\$52,359,941
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012	\$119,055,805

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014

\$2,029,854,100

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Approximately \$12.8 million in funding was committed in FY 2012 and obligated in FY 2013.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 17, 2014.

³ Total includes \$10 million announced in FY 2013 for obligation by State/PRM in FY 2014.

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.
- The USG 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:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.