

SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

NOVEMBER 9, 2018

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

13 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria
UN – June 2018

5.8 million

IDPs in Syria
UN – September 2018

4 million

People Reached Per Month by USG Assistance in Syria
USG – June 2018

5.6 million

Syrian Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – October 2018

3.6 million

Syrian Refugees in Turkey
UNHCR – September 2018

952,562

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
UNHCR – September 2018

672,578

Syrian Refugees in Jordan
UNHCR – October 2018

251,793

Syrian Refugees in Iraq
UNHCR – October 2018

438,000

Palestinian Refugees in Syria
UNRWA – August 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN–SARC convoy delivers multi-sector assistance to 50,000 displaced persons at the informal Rukban settlement
- UN records more than 130 attacks affecting health care facilities in Syria in 2018
- Countrywide average price of food baskets decreases by 40 percent since December 2016
- UN estimates nearly 1.2 million people reside in HTR areas in Syria

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2012–2018

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$1,700,750,865
USAID/FFP ²	\$2,812,034,151
State/PRM ³	\$4,496,142,518

\$9,008,927,534

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 4, a UN–Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) convoy reached the informal Rukban settlement—located along the Syria–Jordan border berm—from Syria’s capital city of Damascus, delivering food, health, nutrition, and other assistance sufficient for 50,000 people, according to the UN. In addition, the UN simultaneously vaccinated children against measles and polio at the settlement. Access to humanitarian assistance has remained limited for settlement residents since mid-January, when a UN operation from Jordan last delivered food and relief commodities to Rukban.
- As of September 30, the UN had recorded more than 130 attacks affecting health care facilities across Syria in 2018, compared to approximately 100 attacks from January–September 2017. To date in 2018, attacks on health facilities have resulted in the deaths of at least 97 people, including 17 health care providers, and injured nearly 170 additional individuals, according to the UN.
- Although at least 6 million people in Syria remain food-insecure and an additional 4.5 million people are at risk of becoming food-insecure, the countrywide average price of food baskets has decreased by 40 percent since December 2016, primarily due to improved security conditions in Aleppo, Ar Raqqa, Hamah, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates, as well as the reopening of supply routes, according to an October assessment by USAID/FFP partners the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN World Food Program (WFP).
- Nearly 1.2 million people were residing in UN-designated hard-to-reach (HTR) areas as of late October, a reduction of approximately 300,000 people since July, when the UN estimated approximately 1.5 million people resided in HTR areas.

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)

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Conflict in Syria killed at least 167 civilians during October, including at least 42 deaths due to Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) and Government of the Russian Federation military operations, according to the Syria Network for Human Rights (SNHR). To date in 2018, SNHR has recorded at least 6,395 civilian deaths in Syria.
- Nearly 1.2 million people were residing in HTR areas of Syria as of late October, representing a 26 percent decrease from the approximately 1.5 million people residing in HTR areas in July, the UN reports. Dayr az Zawr Governorate hosts Syria's largest HTR population, approximately 298,000 people, followed by Homs and Rif Damascus, which host approximately 210,000 and 195,000 people in HTR areas, respectively. The reduction in HTR populations is largely due to SARG territorial gains and shifting lines of control, allowing areas to become newly accessible.
- During a late October address to the UN Security Council (UNSC), UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock called for the renewal of the mandate of UNSC Resolution 2165, which authorizes UN cross-border humanitarian access to Syria and is set to expire on January 10, 2019. From January–September 2018, the UN provided assistance to an estimated 750,000 people per month through cross-border operations. In addition, the UN has relied on cross-border operations from Turkey to pre-position relief commodities, including plastic sheeting and winterization items, in anticipation of a potential SARG military offensive in Idlib and Hamah governorates.

Northeastern Syria

- Escalated conflict between Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants and Syrian Democratic Forces in southern Dayr az Zawr displaced approximately 30,000 people from June–October, according to the UN. On October 16, the UN released a statement calling on all parties to the conflict to protect civilians and improve access to areas near Dayr az Zawr's Hajin town. The UN also called on all parties to enable freedom of movement for civilians and the relocation of informal settlements farther from frontlines of conflict. As of late September, approximately 15,000 people remained in ISIS-controlled areas in the governorate's Hajin sub-district, relief organizations report.
- Displaced populations continue to return to areas of origin in Ar Raqqah city and require assistance meeting basic needs. As of October, approximately 50 percent of Ar Raqqah households reported being unable to meet basic needs, such as food and winterization items, according to a REACH Initiative survey. Additionally, city residents continue to experience difficulties accessing health care services due to lack of sufficient medical personnel and medical supplies, and many households continue to rely on generators for electricity due to significant damage to Ar Raqqah's electrical infrastructure. Although some Ar Raqqah residents can access safe drinking water through the city's main water network, residents in outlying neighborhoods face challenges accessing water and are relying on negative coping mechanisms, such as consuming previously-stored water and modifying hygiene practices to conserve water.
- From August–September, the median cost of fuel in northeastern Syria increased by nearly 50 percent in anticipation of winter weather-related heating needs, according to REACH. In addition, increased fuel costs have contributed to a nearly 40 percent increase in water trucking costs in northeastern Syria since August.

Northwestern Syria

- More than 3.9 million people were residing in northwestern Syria as of September, including an estimated 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). While the majority of IDPs across northwestern Syria are sheltering with host communities, approximately 418,000 people, including an estimated 300,000 IDPs in Idlib, were residing in more than 330 camps, informal settlements, and transit centers as of September. Relief organizations, including USAID partners, reached approximately 268,000 IDPs in Idlib—nearly 90 percent of the governorate's IDP population—with multi-sector assistance in August and continued to provide regular, life-saving assistance as of early November, the UN reports.
- From January–September, UNHCR distributed relief commodities and shelter materials to nearly 219,000 people, including more than 155,000 people displaced from Aleppo's Afrin District to Aleppo's Tell Refaat sub-district and Fafin, Nabul, and Zahraa towns. UNHCR also provided protection services, including legal services and assistance obtaining documentation, to more than 117,000 people in northwestern Syria during the same period.

Southern Syria

- From November 4 to 6, a UN–SARC convoy delivered multi-sector assistance—including food, health, and nutrition supplies, as well as hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, and winter clothes—sufficient to support 50,000 people at the informal Rukban settlement, according to the UN. The UN also vaccinated children against measles and polio. The convoy represented the first time that assistance had been delivered to the settlement from Damascus. Access to humanitarian assistance has remained limited for Rukban residents since mid-January, when a UN operation from Jordan delivered food and relief commodities. Conditions in the settlement remain poor, with insufficient food and medicines resulting in at least 12 deaths in recent weeks, international media report.
-
-

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Following an extended dry period early in the planting season and late heavy rainfall, wheat production in Syria fell by approximately 30 percent in 2018 compared to 2017, representing a 29-year low, according to USAID/FFP partner FAO. Conflict, displacement, and a limited supply of agricultural inputs and equipment also negatively affected production.
 - Although food insecurity persists in Syria, the countrywide average food basket price has decreased by 40 percent since December 2016, largely due to security improvements in Aleppo, Ar Raqqa, Hamah, Homs, and Rif Damascus, as well as the reopening of supply routes, according to an October FAO–WFP food security assessment. In addition, WFP reports increased humanitarian access to populations residing in former HTR areas. Despite increased access to humanitarian assistance and markets in some areas, at least 6 million people in Syria remain food-insecure—including 500,000–800,000 people in Idlib—and an additional 4.5 million people are at risk of becoming food-insecure, according to WFP.
 - USAID/FFP partner WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 3 million people in all of Syria’s 14 governorates in September, including more than 407,000 people residing in approximately 60 HTR areas in Aleppo, Ar Raqqa, Dar’a, Dayr az Zawr, Hamah, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates. In September, WFP distributed food rations sufficient for 12,500 IDPs and host community members in Hajin sub-district for one month. In addition, WFP livelihood activities—including food processing, farming support, and vocational training—benefited nearly 126,000 people across 11 governorates from January–September.
 - In September, WFP provided nutrition supplies for the prevention of acute malnutrition for nearly 122,000 children in Aleppo, Al Hasakah, Ar Raqqa, Damascus, Dar’a, Hamah, Homs, Quneitra, Rif Damascus, and Tartus governorates. In addition, WFP delivered nutrition supplies to health centers and mobile clinics in Damascus and Homs sufficient to treat nearly 920 children and pregnant and lactating women experiencing moderate acute malnutrition.
-
-

HEALTH

- Approximately 12 million people across Syria required health assistance as of September, according to the Health Cluster. However, limited health facilities, medical personnel, supplies, and specialized health care services continue to restrict health care access for vulnerable populations in Syria. As of late September, approximately 51 percent of the 1,770 private health care centers in Syria were fully functional, while 64 percent of Syria’s estimated 200 public hospitals were operational, the UN reports.
- Attacks against health care facilities and workers continue to hinder access to services across Syria. From January–September, the UN recorded more than 130 attacks—approximately 70 percent of which occurred in Idlib and Rif Damascus—impacting health care facilities across Syria. Attacks impacting health facilities resulted in the deaths of at least 97 people, including 17 health care providers, and injured an additional 170 people, according to the UN.
- Health actors recorded more than 780 diarrhea cases, including 12 deaths, from March–September in Dayr az Zawr, primarily in Al Husseinieh District, according to the Health Cluster. Although disease surveillance data indicate that the outbreak has stabilized to an average of 10 cases per week, diarrhea remained the primary health concern among nearly 60 percent of surveyed communities in Dayr az Zawr as of August, according to the REACH Initiative.

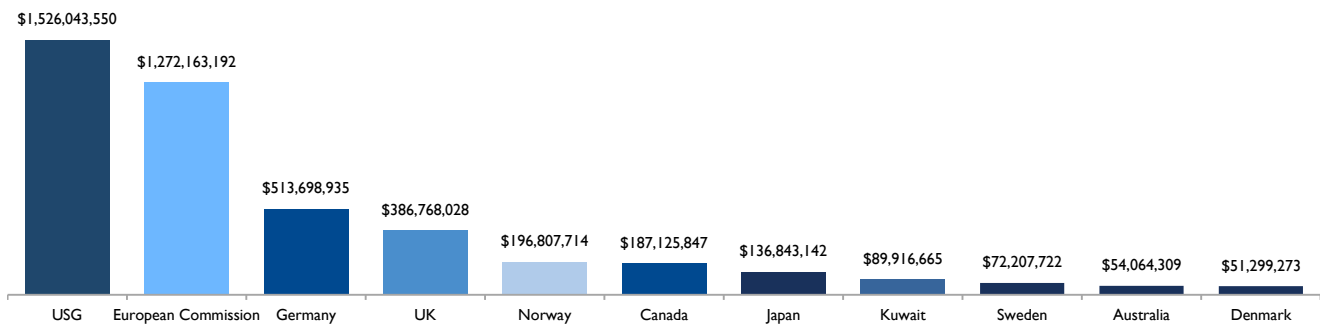
- UNHCR continues to provide primary and emergency health care services, as well as psychosocial support, throughout Syria. From January–September, UNHCR provided primary health care services to 313,000 IDPs across five governorates. In addition, UNHCR provided mental health and psychosocial support services for nearly 5,860 IDPs in Damascus and Rif Damascus.

PROTECTION, SHELTER, AND WINTERIZATION

- In September, U.S. Government (USG) partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reached approximately 43,000 children with psychosocial support services through child-friendly spaces and mobile teams in 11 governorates of Syria. To mitigate the risks posed by explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination, UNICEF is also conducting ERW awareness sessions, reaching approximately 662,000 children across 11 governorates from January–September.
- UNHCR provided protection services, including legal, child protection, and gender-based violence services, to more than 1.5 million IDPs, returnees, and host community members across 13 of Syria’s 14 governorates from January–September. UNHCR also provided relief commodities to nearly 228,000 IDPs in Aleppo, Dar’a, Hamah, Homs, and Rif Damascus, as well as shelter support to 55,200 people in Aleppo, As Suwayda’, Hamah, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates, from January–September.
- From September 1–October 15, UNHCR provided winterization items, including plastic sheeting, thermal blankets, and winter clothing, to more than 163,000 people across Syria, representing 16 percent of the agency’s goal to provide winter-specific assistance to 1 million people in Syria by March.

2018 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of November 9, 2018. All international figures are according to the UN’s Financial Tracking System and based on international commitments during calendar year 2018, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FY 2018, which began on October 1, 2017.

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.
- 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.
- On July 14, 2014, the UNSC adopted UNSC Resolution 2165, authorizing UN cross-border and cross-line delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict-affected populations without SARG approval. The resolution permits the UN’s use of four border crossings from Turkey, Jordan, and Iraq—in addition to other crossings already in use by UN agencies—for the delivery of humanitarian assistance into Syria. The resolution also establishes a monitoring mechanism under the authority of the UN Secretary-General and with the consent of neighboring countries to ensure that deliveries across these border points contain only humanitarian items. The UNSC has subsequently adopted several resolutions renewing the mandate of UNSC Resolution 2165, most recently in December 2017 with the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2393, extending the authorities granted until January 2019.
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates approximately 438,000 Palestinian refugees remain in Syria; more than 80 percent of the 560,000 registered with UNRWA prior to the conflict lived in and around the city of Damascus. Intense fighting in and around some Palestinian camps and neighborhoods has significantly affected Palestinian refugees in Syria. UNRWA estimates that approximately 60 percent of Palestinian refugees are displaced within Syria, with a further 110,000 Palestinian refugees displaced outside of Syria. Syria also hosts an estimated 34,000 Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers, primarily in the greater Damascus area, as well as more than 3,200 refugee persons of concern from other countries.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2018¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Syria	\$172,236,361
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$3,000,401
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$23,394,072
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$4,500,000
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Syria	\$200,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$26,077,692
The UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health	Syria	\$14,500,000
	Program Support	Syria	\$7,923,575
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$251,832,101

USAID/FFP			
NGO Partner	Cash Transfers for Food, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement, and Complementary Services	Syria	\$84,388,912
IOM	Regional Food Procurement	Syria	\$417,117
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement, Nutrition, and Complementary Services	Syria	\$238,838,098
WFP	Food Vouchers	Egypt	\$11,000,000
WFP	Food Vouchers	Iraq	\$8,000,000
WFP	Food Vouchers	Jordan	\$64,000,000
WFP	Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$95,000,000
WFP	Food Vouchers	Turkey	\$13,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$514,644,127
STATE/PRM			
NGO Partners	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey	\$81,281,025
Implementing Partner	Capacity Building, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$63,600,000
IOM	Border Transport, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey	\$13,500,000
International Labor Organization (ILO)	Livelihoods	Jordan, Turkey	\$5,586,297
UNHCR	Camp Management, Education, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Region	\$394,200,000
UNICEF	Child Protection, Education, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey	\$194,900,000
WHO	Health	Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey	\$6,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$759,567,322
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$1,526,043,550

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding reflects publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2018.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2012–2018

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$1,700,750,865
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$2,812,034,151
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$4,496,142,518
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2012-2018	\$9,008,927,534

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.
- 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:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>