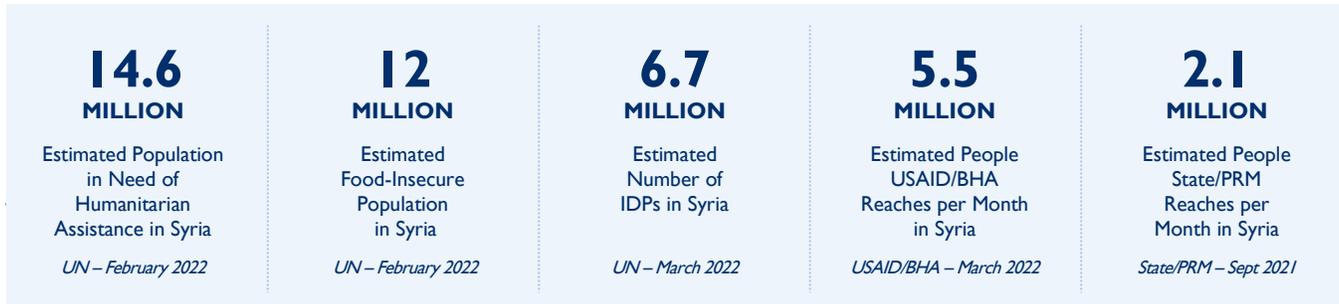


Syria – Complex Emergency

JUNE 10, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield visited Turkey’s Bab al-Hawa border crossing in early June and discussed cross-border humanitarian assistance operations in northwest Syria with relief organizations.
- The UN dispatched its fourth cross-line humanitarian convoy to Idlib Governorate on May 16, carrying food commodities sufficient to support approximately 40,000 people in northwest Syria.
- Poor economic conditions, limited health infrastructure, and insufficient safe drinking water have contributed to a higher prevalence of wasting in northeast Syria compared to other regions.
- The 2020–2021 wheat harvest in northeast Syria represented the lowest on record since 2017.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$7,605,721,571
	State/PRM ²	\$7,333,796,062
	Total	\$14,939,517,633

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

¹USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
²U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield Meets Humanitarian Stakeholders in Hatay

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield visited Turkey's Hatay Province from June 1 to 2 to meet with Government of Turkey officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Syrian refugees, UN agencies, and the Syrian Civil Defense—also known as the White Helmets—regarding humanitarian conditions and UN cross-border assistance operations in Syria. The Ambassador discussed U.S. Government (USG) support for continued UN cross-border assistance to northwest Syria through Turkey's Bab al-Hawa border crossing under UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2585 and the USG's May 10 announcement of nearly \$808 million in additional funding for the Syria humanitarian response. On June 2, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield observed operations at the UN World Food Program (WFP)-managed transshipment center at Bab al-Hawa crossing, from which the UN delivers food assistance, medicines, and other essential items to approximately 2.4 million people in northwest Syria each month. NGO representatives also briefed the Ambassador on humanitarian conditions in northwest Syria, where approximately 3.1 million people require emergency food assistance to meet basic needs. The representatives estimated that, if the UNSC does not renew UN authorization to continue cross-border assistance into Syria before the expiration of UNSC Resolution 2585 in July, NGOs in the northwest will only be able to support up to 10 percent of the region's food-insecure population.

During a June 2 press conference in Hatay, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield reiterated the need for the UNSC to renew the authorization enabling UN cross-border humanitarian assistance, noting that a failure to do so would result in the immediate discontinuation of life-saving assistance and exacerbate needs across northwest Syria, where approximately 4.1 million people—more than 90 percent of the region's population—already require humanitarian aid. She also emphasized the USG's opposition to any military escalation by parties to the conflict that would upend ceasefire agreements and drive further destabilization and humanitarian needs in the country.

Fourth Cross-Line UN Humanitarian Mission Delivers Aid to the Northwest

On May 16, the UN dispatched a cross-line convoy carrying humanitarian food assistance from Aleppo Governorate's Aleppo city—a Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG)-held area—to a UN warehouse in opposition-held Idlib Governorate, the UN reports. The convoy contained food commodities sufficient to support more than 40,000 people in northwest Syria for approximately one month and is the fourth UN-facilitated cross-line mission to arrive in Idlib since August 2021. UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Martin Griffiths noted in a May 20 briefing to the UNSC that the UN is planning a fifth cross-line convoy to transport commodities from multiple UN agencies as part of a revised UN operational plan for interagency cross-line convoys to communities in Aleppo and Idlib through December 2022.

While the UN continues to operationalize plans to scale up cross-line assistance to northwest Syria, ERC Griffiths underscored that cross-line assistance complements, but cannot match, the scale of the UN's cross-border operation in northwest Syria. In addition, operational challenges—including airstrikes, improvised explosive devices, landmines, and delayed security guarantees from parties to the conflict to ensure the safe passage of cross-line convoys and personnel—continue to hinder the UN's ability to conduct regular and sustained cross-line operations into northwest Syria.

WHO Reports Elevated GAM Prevalence in Northeast Syria

Damaged health infrastructure, poor economic conditions, and limited access to safe drinking water have contributed to increased prevalence of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—in northeast Syria compared to other regions in the country, according to a May report by USAID/BHA partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO). The UN agency estimates that 5.5 million people in Syria will require direct nutrition assistance between 2022 and 2023, approximately half of whom reside in the northeast governorates of Al Hasakah, Ar Raqqa, and Dayr az Zawr. Based on the results of a 2019 countrywide nutrition survey, Al Hasakah and Dayr az Zawr reported a global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of nearly 3 percent among children ages five years and younger compared to the national average GAM rate of approximately 2 percent. In addition, Al Hasakah and Dayr az Zawr reported a chronic malnutrition prevalence of approximately 20 percent compared to the national average of nearly 13 percent. Subsequent data collected by WHO during nutrition screenings at health centers in northeast Syria between January 2021 and February 2022 indicate that wasting prevalence in the region remains elevated, with the UN agency reporting a GAM prevalence of nearly 4 percent among the 84,000 screenings conducted.

In response to identified needs, WHO expanded nutrition surveillance and treatment services in health facilities and hard-to-reach areas of northeast Syria in 2021, cumulatively establishing 66 health facilities across the region. The UN agency also supports four wasting treatment centers and facilitates trainings and infant and young child feeding programs aimed at preventing wasting among children and pregnant and lactating women. Despite these efforts, relief actors maintain that continued, urgent interventions are required to prevent further deterioration of nutrition conditions in the northeast, particularly amid increasing food prices and poor economic conditions that have reduced households' ability to afford nutritious foods and meet basic needs. Overall, WHO estimates that the total number of food-insecure children across Syria had risen to more than 4.6 million as of May.

Warmer, Drier Climate Conditions Hamper Wheat Production in Northeast

Warmer temperatures, reduced rainfall, and compounding effects of 11 years of conflict have compromised wheat production in northeast Syria, according to an assessment by NGO iMMAP published in April. The assessment highlights that the climate in Syria has become increasingly warm and arid over the years, with the average temperature in the region approximately 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than 100 years ago and average rainfall during each month decreasing by approximately 0.7 inches per century. Drier and warmer weather patterns and resultant reductions in surface water levels in dams, rivers, and streams have contributed to increased crop diseases and pest infestations in the northeast, while decreased availability of irrigation water, dilapidated public irrigation infrastructure, elevated prices of agricultural tools and fuel, and poor soil quality have exacerbated the strain on wheat farmers. Together, these factors have resulted in decreased wheat crop yields and production across the region, with the 2020–2021 wheat harvest in Al Hasakah, Ar Raqqa, and Dayr az Zawr governorates representing the lowest on record since 2017. As such, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that the approximately 477,000 metric tons of wheat produced in the northeast during the 2020–2021 season was only sufficient to cover 80 percent of wheat needs in the region.

Climate forecasting suggests that conditions in Syria will become increasingly arid as precipitation becomes less frequent, iMMAP reports. To prevent further deterioration of the wheat production system in the northeast, the NGO recommends that donors, farmers, local authorities, and relief actors prioritize climate-sensitive agricultural practices, enhance the use of drought-tolerant wheat seeds, promote agricultural diversification, rehabilitate irrigation systems, and restore degraded ecosystems.

KEY FIGURES



6.6 Million

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



5 Million

Number of people USAID/BHA reached with health assistance in FY 2021



15

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and 13 NGOs providing emergency food and nutrition assistance within Syria and to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. In Syria, USAID/BHA partners provide vulnerable populations with cash transfers for food, food vouchers, monthly in-kind food rations, and emergency nutritional products while also distributing wheat flour and yeast to bakeries. USAID/BHA assistance also supports the provision of cash transfers for food and food vouchers for Syrian refugees. WFP and USAID/BHA-funded NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to more than 6.6 million Syrians, including more than 5.5 million people inside Syria and 1.1 million refugees across Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 11 partners, including UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (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, reproductive health services, the provision of equipment for health facilities, and training for Syrian medical workers. USAID/BHA is supporting additional NGOs to bolster coronavirus disease (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 the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides medical consultations and facilitates community-based health programming through 26 community clinics and 12 health points in UNHCR-supported community centers in areas of Syria with minimally accessible health services. The UN agency also distributes masks and sanitation supplies to community centers throughout the country to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In addition, State/PRM supports UNHCR, UNICEF, and nine NGO partners to provide health assistance, including medical consultations, specialized health services, and vaccinations, for refugees in neighboring countries.

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 13 NGO partners, as well as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF, to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (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. Furthermore, USAID/BHA is supporting NGOs to bolster COVID-19 response capacity in Syria by increasing water trucking frequency to communities and internally displaced person (IDP) sites, providing additional water for handwashing and cleaning, and distributing soap and other WASH commodities. State/PRM also supports partners—including one NGO in Iraq and Lebanon, one international organization in Jordan, and a third partner in Syria—to provide WASH assistance to Syrian refugees as well as vulnerable populations inside Syria.



242

Number of centers through which State/PRM provides protection assistance in Syria

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides comprehensive protection services—including identifying protection cases, facilitating community-based protection interventions, providing referrals to legal aid services, and providing educational services for parents and children—for conflict-affected and displaced Syrians in both Syria and neighboring countries. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR engages 2,870 community outreach volunteers and supports approximately 120 mobile units, 90 community centers, and 30 satellite centers throughout Syria to provide psychosocial support services, legal counseling, and case management and referrals. 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 15 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 safe spaces for women and girls, as well as medical supplies and specialized training for health staff to provide appropriate care for gender-based violence survivors throughout Syria.



8

Number of State/PRM partners providing shelter and relief commodities in Syria and neighboring countries

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA supports 11 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, with State/PRM support, UNHCR facilitates the distribution of hygiene kits, relief commodities, and tents to IDPs and host community members in Syria. During the 2021–2022 winter season, UNHCR shipped 15,000 winter core relief item kits and 2,400 tents and installed more than 900 tents in response to severe winter weather in northwest Syria. From September 2021 to March 2022, UNHCR provided winter core relief items to more than 133,000 households. State/PRM also supports IOM, UNHCR, and NGO partners to provide shelter and relief commodities to refugees in neighboring countries.

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 (SDF) announced the capture of the last ISIS strongholds in Syria.
- On July 9, 2021, the UNSC adopted UNSC Resolution 2585, authorizing UN cross-border 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 12 months—six months with an automatic extension of an additional six months following the issuance of a UN Secretary-General report detailing progress on cross-line humanitarian assistance and operational transparency. The resolution is a partial renewal of previous cross-border aid resolutions, beginning with UNSC Resolution 2165 on July 14, 2014, which authorized four border crossings from Turkey, Jordan, and Iraq.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
SYRIA			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP, Vouchers; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$141,322,244
IOM	HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$21,281,787
UNICEF	Nutrition, Health, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$19,345,596
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Syria	\$3,000,000

WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP, Vouchers; Nutrition	Syria	\$171,500,000
Program Support		Syria	\$381,679
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$356,831,306
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education; Food Assistance—LRIP, Vouchers; Health; Livelihoods; Protection; Relief Commodities; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$27,600,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), HCIMA, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$57,100,000
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA)	Education, Food Assistance—LRIP, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$12,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$96,700,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2022			\$453,531,306

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES IN FY 2022 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
EGYPT			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Egypt	\$15,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EGYPT			\$15,000,000
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities	Egypt	\$6,600,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection	Egypt	\$900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EGYPT			\$7,500,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2022			\$22,500,000
IRAQ			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	CCCM, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$15,400,000
UNICEF	Education, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Iraq	\$1,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN IRAQ			\$16,400,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN IRAQ IN FY 2022			\$16,400,000
JORDAN			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers	Jordan	\$66,552,591
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$66,552,591

STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$3,400,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Education, HCIMA, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$47,200,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Jordan	\$15,600,000
UNRWA	Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$68,200,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2022			\$134,752,591
LEBANON			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, International Procurement (LRIP), Vouchers	Lebanon	\$73,000,000
Program Support			\$35,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$73,035,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, WASH	Lebanon	\$7,400,000
UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$67,500,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Lebanon	\$36,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$111,100,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2022			\$184,135,000
TURKEY			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance–Vouchers	Turkey	\$7,600,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN TURKEY			\$7,600,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Health, Livelihoods, Protection	Turkey	\$4,148,214
IOM	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Turkey	\$8,500,000
UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Turkey	\$42,300,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Turkey	\$19,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TURKEY			\$74,548,214
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TURKEY IN FY 2022			\$82,148,214

REGIONAL			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection	Regional	\$1,200,000
TOTAL REGIONAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$1,200,000
TOTAL REGIONAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$1,200,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FY 2022

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$519,018,897
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$375,648,214
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$894,667,111

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2022

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2022			\$7,605,721,571
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2022			\$7,333,796,062
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2022			\$14,939,517,633

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 10, 2022.

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 [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)