

SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #5, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

MARCH 4, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

11.7 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria
UN – January 2019

6.2 million

IDPs in Syria
UN – May 2019

4 million

People Reached per Month by USAID Assistance in Syria
USAID – December 2019

5.6 million

Syrian Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – February 2020

3.6 million

Syrian Refugees in Turkey
UNHCR – February 2020

910,256

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
UNHCR – January 2020

655,435

Syrian Refugees in Jordan
UNHCR – February 2020

247,568

Syrian Refugees in Iraq
UNHCR – January 2020

438,000

Palestinian Refugees in Syria
UNRWA – June 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- USG announces more than \$108 million in new humanitarian funding for the Syria crisis
- Hostilities displace at least 961,000 people in northwest Syria in three months
- Relief actors continue to monitor, implement preventive measures for COVID-19 cases confirmed in neighboring countries; no confirmed cases in Syria as of early March

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$1,967,164,631
USAID/FFP ²	\$3,323,218,932
State/PRM ³	\$5,316,612,775

\$10,606,996,338

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- From December 2019 to date, a Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) and Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) offensive—including airstrikes, shelling, and ground attacks—has displaced an estimated 961,000 people from and within Aleppo and Idlib governorates, including approximately 444,000 people displaced during February alone, UN agencies report. The displacement in the ten-week period from early December to mid-February represents the single largest volume of displacement since the Syria crisis began in 2011, according to the UN.
- On March 3, during a visit to the Turkey–Syria border, U.S. Representative to the UN Ambassador Kelly Craft announced approximately \$108 million in additional U.S. Government (USG) assistance for the humanitarian response in Syria and to support Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. The new assistance comprises more than \$52 million from USAID and nearly \$56 million from State/PRM to support live-saving interventions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Syria, as well as Syrian refugees in the region. The funding includes support to expand the international relief operation in northwest Syria, providing additional emergency food, health, shelter, winterization, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support. Since the start of the crisis in 2012, the USG has provided more than \$10.6 billion in funding to assist Syrians in need.
- As of March 2, there were no confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Syria, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Relief actors continue to implement preventive measures and develop response plans for high-risk areas in Syria.

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

- Relief actors continue to monitor COVID-19 cases in the region, with confirmed cases in neighboring Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon to date. As of March 2, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Syria; five suspected cases tested negative for COVID-19 in the country's capital of Damascus, WHO reports. The UN reports that areas of concern for COVID-19 in Syria are densely populated areas and areas experiencing hostilities. The UN is focused on reinforcing existing stockpiles and developing a national response plan and standard operating procedures for disease detection and surveillance at points of entry into Syria. WHO is also supporting the SARG Ministry of Health by training health care workers and distributing personal protective equipment and communication materials.

Northwest Syria

- Due to shifting conflict front lines and ongoing aerial bombardments, fighting continues to displace populations—often numerous times—within northwest Syria, primarily from southern Idlib and western Aleppo governorates. More than 961,000 people have been displaced from December 1 to March 1, exacerbating humanitarian needs and straining the response capacity of humanitarian actors, the UN reports. The total includes 444,000 people displaced during February alone, according to the UN.
- Displaced populations continue to flee northward, including to areas of Idlib located near the Syria–Turkey border and to Government of Turkey (GoT)-controlled sections of northern Aleppo, USAID partners report. Approximately 555,000 individuals, or an estimated 58 percent of people displaced since December 1, moved to areas within Idlib—including to Dana, Idlib, Maaret Tamsrin, and Salqin sub-districts—while the remaining approximately 406,000 IDPs, or 42 percent, traveled to northern Aleppo, including to GoT-controlled Afrin, Azaz, Al Bab, and Jandairis sub-districts, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. As of March 1, an estimated 202,000 displaced individuals were sheltering in IDP camps; 173,000 IDPs were sheltering in unfinished houses or buildings; 136,000 IDPs were in individual tents; and 4,000 IDPs reported that they did not currently have shelter, as urban areas and camps grow increasingly crowded, the CCCM Cluster reports. An additional 351,000 IDPs were living with host families or renting accommodations, and 89,000 IDPs were in collective centers.
- International media report that SARG forces captured the entirety of the strategically significant M5 highway—which connects Syria's Aleppo and Damascus cities—in mid-February, representing the first time the SARG fully controlled the key corridor since 2012. Sustained airstrikes, shelling, and ground attacks have led to the SARG seizure of approximately 300 communities in Aleppo and Idlib as of February 20, forcing populations to flee for a second or third time, having previously fled hostilities elsewhere prior to seeking refuge in these communities, according to the UN.
- On February 22, the UN issued a revised Northwest Syria Humanitarian Readiness and Response Plan, requesting \$500 million for northwest Syria emergency response activities. The request includes amended funding requirements, as displacement had already surpassed early 2020 emergency planning figures. The plan seeks to address the needs of approximately 1.1 million newly displaced IDPs in northwest Syria during a period of six months—a figure that accounts for the more than 950,000 people currently displaced and 150,000 people likely to be displaced in the coming months. As of March 3, and including funds from the recent USG commitment, the humanitarian community had secured more than \$300 million against the requirement, according to the UN. Overall, more than 2.8 million people in northwest Syria—including IDPs and vulnerable host community members—continue to require humanitarian assistance as a result of ongoing hostilities and disruptions to basic services.
- Despite a vigorous international relief effort, the surge in humanitarian needs continues to outpace relief agencies' collective ability to meet them, as hostilities continue to impede assistance efforts. Damage to civilian infrastructure—including bakeries, hospitals, markets, schools, and power and water plants—is further exacerbating IDPs' vulnerabilities. In addition, children, who are particularly vulnerable during times of displacement, compose approximately 60 percent of the newly displaced population in northwest Syria, according to the UN; numerous children have reportedly died due to recent adverse winter weather conditions, including snow and below-freezing temperatures, according to relief actors.
- SARG-led military offensives in Idlib continue to cause civilian deaths and heavy damage to civilian infrastructure, international media report. At least 11 people were killed, including seven children, and more than 40 others injured

when SARG airstrikes hit a school in Idlib's Maaret Masreen town on February 25, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Airstrikes also hit two IDP sites in Dana on February 14 and 15, killing one person and injuring several others. From February 1 to 25, hostilities killed at least 134 civilians, including 44 children, and airstrikes either directly hit or affected at least 11 medical facilities and 15 educational facilities in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, according to OHCHR.

- On February 26, nine members of the UN Security Council (UNSC), including the U.S., called on UN Secretary-General António Guterres to take urgent action to secure a ceasefire in the northwest. The message echoes the voice of humanitarian organizations that continue to condemn the attacks and advocate for an end to hostilities.
- On March 2, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (RHC) for the Syria Crisis Kevin Kennedy and representatives of seven UN agencies conducted a cross-border UN mission into northwest Syria, visiting Idlib's Kafr Lusin IDP camp and Bab al Hawa Hospital near the Syria–Turkey border. In January and February, more than 2,150 trucks transported aid from Turkey into northwest Syria through two border crossings authorized by UNSC Resolution 2504 in January—more than twice the number of trucks crossing during the same period in 2019. However, RHC Kennedy reports a continued urgent need for IDP access to food, health, protection, shelter, and WASH services.
- Ambassador Kelly Craft—joined by U.S. Special Representative for Syria Engagement Ambassador James F. Jeffrey, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey David M. Satterfield, and UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock—announced an additional \$108 million in USG humanitarian assistance for the Syrian crisis during a visit to the Turkey–Syria border on March 3. The officials visited Bab al Hawa border crossing and heard from USG humanitarian partners about humanitarian conditions and the response in northwest Syria, including the critical role of cross-border assistance in reaching the most vulnerable.

Northeast Syria

- Relief actors note a gap in critical supplies, particularly medical commodities, to northeast Syria following the removal of Iraq's Yaroubia border crossing as an authorized UN crossing point under UNSC Resolution 2504. The UN's use of Yaroubia crossing previously enabled the delivery of critical supplies to humanitarian organizations to support an estimated 1.4 million people in northeast Syria, according to the UN. As of December 2019, more than 100 medical facilities were supported by aid groups across northeast Syria, which received a significant amount of their medical supplies from the UN through Yaroubia; at least 50 of those facilities relied entirely on medicines provided cross-border, the UN reports.
- Additionally, civilians remain vulnerable to hostilities in northeast Syria, as recent conflict in and around Al Hasakah Governorate's Tal Tamer District displaced approximately 1,600 people to the governorate's Qamishli District and 800 people to Ar Raqqa Governorate as of February 27, according to the UN. The UN reports that across the northeast, an estimated 1.9 million people require humanitarian assistance, and the majority—approximately 1.3 million people—reside in areas outside of SARG control.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide emergency food assistance to people throughout Syria, reaching approximately 5.3 million people in January through the delivery of nearly 63,000 metric tons (MT) of food and nutrition assistance. WFP delivered food assistance to people across all 14 governorates in Syria, more than 30 percent of which was delivered through the cross-border operation from Turkey to reach areas not accessible from inside Syria, including Aleppo and Idlib. The January food deliveries included additional supplies for pre-positioning in northwest Syria, the UN agency reports.
- From December to early March, WFP reached approximately 675,000 newly displaced people in northwest Syria with ready-to-eat rations (RTEs)—portable food rations designed to meet the food needs of a family of five for five days—and provided additional food assistance for nearly 3.1 million people in the same timeframe. This assistance includes RTEs for more than 509,000 newly displaced people and additional food assistance for nearly 1.2 million people in northwest Syria in February. WFP reported challenges with delivering food assistance due to the volatile security situation in the northwest, resulting in several temporary delays in the transport and delivery of commodities.

HEALTH AND WASH

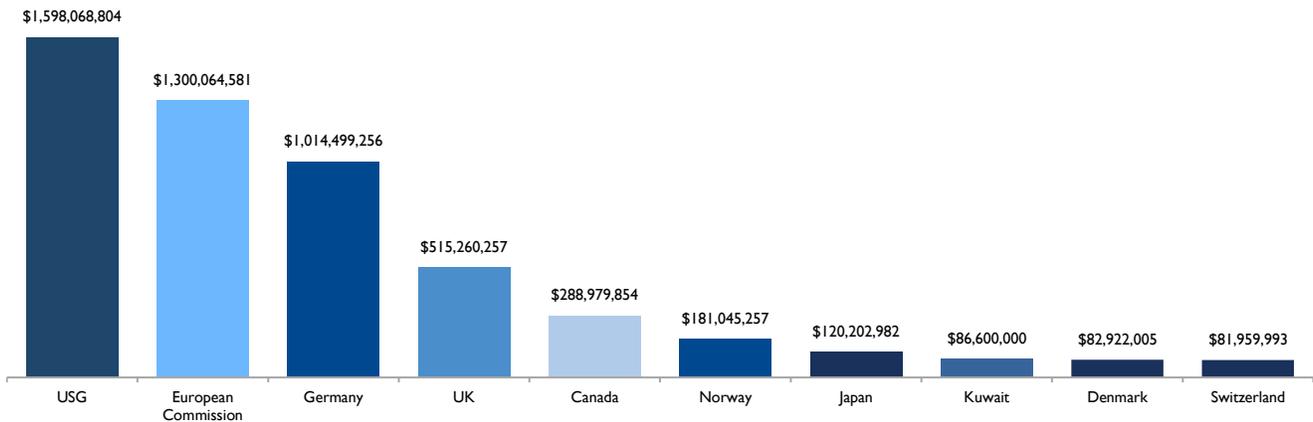
- Hostilities continue to have a devastating impact on civilian infrastructure, including recent attacks on health care facilities in Aleppo and Idlib. On February 17, airstrikes hit two hospitals in Aleppo's Daret Azza sub-district, and on February 25, an airstrike hit Idlib Central Hospital, injuring four staff and resulting in structural damage, international media report. The hospital, which had served 11,500 patients per month, was forced to close due to safety concerns posed by targeted airstrikes. According to WHO, from December 1 to February 28, there were 11 attacks on or near health care facilities in the northwest, resulting in 10 deaths and injuring at least 40 others.
- As of late February, out of the 84 health facilities forced to fully suspend operations since hostilities began in northwest Syria on December 1, only 31 facilities had been able to relocate and provide services where IDPs are sheltering from bombardments, according to WHO. WHO provided supplies to implementing partners in more than 150 health facilities—approximately half of functioning health facilities in the northwest—from February 25 to 26, delivering 55 MT of medicine and medical supplies through the cross-border operation from Turkey into Aleppo and Idlib.
- Through health facilities spread across approximately 20 northwest Syria sub-districts, USAID/OFDA NGO partners provided nearly 111,000 outpatient health consultations during the month of January. NGO health partners also provided more than 47,000 communicable disease consultations, facilitated nearly 7,000 hospitalizations, provided more than 7,800 trauma consultations, and assisted nearly 1,300 births during the month. The partners also continue efforts to provide routine and emergency health assistance to displaced populations by operating mobile medical units across the region.
- During the month of January, USAID/OFDA NGO partners bolstered efforts to provide emergency WASH support to displaced populations in northwest Syria. Collectively, NGO partners provided emergency WASH services to more than 142,000 households during the month, including nearly 74,300 households reached with water trucking, nearly 20,200 households reached with sanitation assistance, and more than 44,800 households reached with waste removal services. While ongoing hostilities have resulted in loss of access in some conflict-affected areas of southern Idlib and western Aleppo, WASH NGO partners are continuously working to relocate activities and expand support to camps, informal settlements, and urban areas receiving high numbers of newly displaced IDPs.

PROTECTION AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

- In January, a USAID NGO partner provided protection support to nearly 1,000 conflict-affected people in Idlib, including nearly 900 IDPs. Of these, approximately 480 people—including 360 women and girls—received psychosocial support services through static and mobile protection teams. The NGO also provided approximately 450 people with information sessions on protection topics, including prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and issues facing adolescents in conflict-affected areas. Through a local implementing partner, the NGO also distributed dignity kits to approximately 320 women and girls during the month.
- In response to heightened emergency needs among newly displaced IDPs experiencing harsh winter weather conditions in northwest Syria, USAID/OFDA NGO partners distributed emergency cash assistance for purchase of winter-related supplies to nearly 2,700 households—or nearly 16,000 people—during the month of January. NGO partners also reached nearly 9,300 households—or more than 87,000 people—with emergency supplies, including new IDP arrival kits, hygiene kits, and kitchen sets. NGO partners have continued emergency distributions in February, while also working to replenish depleted commodity stocks and relocate distribution points to areas receiving large numbers of new IDP arrivals.

2019–2020 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of March 4, 2020. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2019 and 2020 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FY 2019, which ran from October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019, and FY 2020, which began on October 1, 2019.

CONTEXT

- Following the commencement of peaceful demonstrations against the SARG in March 2011, SARG 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 (AOGs) 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 AOG-held areas of Syria.
- On January 10, 2020, the UNSC adopted UNSC Resolution 2504, 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 two border crossings from Turkey for the delivery of humanitarian assistance into Syria for six months, expiring in July 2020. 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.
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates approximately 438,000 Palestinian refugees remain in Syria, representing a decrease from the 560,000 people registered with UNRWA prior to the conflict. Intense fighting in and around some Palestinian camps and neighborhoods has significantly affected Palestinian refugees in Syria. Syria also hosts an estimated 34,000 Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers, as well as more than 3,200 refugee persons of concern from other countries.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
NGO Partners	Health, WASH	Syria	\$5,471,643
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$7,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Syria	\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$16,471,643
USAID/FFP			
NGO Partners	Cash Transfers for Food, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement (LRIP), and Complementary Services	Syria	\$9,531,295
WFP	Food Vouchers, LRIP, Nutrition, and Complementary Services	Syria	\$26,250,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$35,781,295
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	CCCM, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria, Turkey	\$55,800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$55,800,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$108,052,938

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
NGO Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Health, HCIM, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$178,211,423
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	HCIM, Health, Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$3,001,725
IOM	ERMS, HCIM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$20,187,224
OCHA	HCIM	Syria	\$4,625,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	HCIM, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$19,000,000
UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIM	Syria	\$997,229
WHO	Health	Syria	\$20,825,517
	Program Support	Syria	\$3,094,005
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$249,942,123
USAID/FFP			
NGO Partners	Cash Transfers for Food; ERMS; Food Vouchers; LRIP; Complementary Services	Syria	\$155,388,486
IOM	LRIP	Syria	3,015,000

WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP, Nutrition, Complementary Services	Syria	\$120,000,000
WFP	Food Vouchers	Egypt	\$18,000,000
WFP	Food Vouchers	Iraq	\$6,000,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Jordan	\$74,000,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Lebanon	\$86,000,000
WFP	Food Vouchers	Turkey	\$13,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$475,403,486
STATE/PRM			
NGO Partners	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, Shelter, WASH	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey	\$95,147,597
Implementing Partner (IP)	Capacity Building, Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$60,100,000
IOM	Border Transport, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities	Iraq, Jordan, Turkey	\$15,600,000
International Labor Organization (ILO)	Livelihoods	Jordan	\$2,222,660
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Livelihoods, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Region	\$413,900,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey	\$173,200,000
WHO	Health	Iraq	\$2,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$764,670,257
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$1,490,015,866

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding reflects publicly announced funding as of March 4, 2020.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN FYs 2012–2020	\$1,967,164,631
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN FYs 2012–2020	\$3,323,218,932
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN FYs 2012–2020	\$5,316,612,775
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2020	\$10,606,996,338

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:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org.
 - 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>