

Syria – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 7, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>13.4 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – March 2021</i></p>	<p>12.4 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Food-Insecure Population in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – March 2021</i></p>	<p>6.7 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Syria</p> <p><i>UN – March 2021</i></p>	<p>4.8 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated People USAID/BHA Reaches per Month in Syria</p> <p><i>USAID/BHA – Sept 2021</i></p>	<p>2.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated People State/PRM Reaches per Month in Syria</p> <p><i>State/PRM – Sept 2021</i></p>
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- Early January airstrikes in Idlib resulted in multiple civilian deaths and injuries and caused significant damage to an Idlib city water station, disrupting access to safe drinking water for 225,000 people.
- WHO launched a 2022 emergency health appeal for Syria on December 27, requesting \$258 million to address emergency health needs countrywide.
- A recent UNFPA report identifies the protracted humanitarian crisis, economic downturn, and the secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as the primary drivers of women’s and girls’ exposure to GBV in 2021.



<p>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Syria Response in FYs 2012–2021</p>	USAID/BHA ¹	\$7,086,702,674
	State/PRM ²	\$6,958,147,848
	Total	\$14,044,850,522

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Idlib Attacks Result in Civilian Casualties, Damages to Water Station

In early January, multiple airstrikes hit several locations in Idlib Governorate, including Idlib city and surrounding towns, resulting in multiple civilian deaths and injuries, according to media reports. At least one airstrike hit a water station in west Idlib city that serves approximately 225,000 people, causing significant damages and rendering the station inoperable. In response, relief actors plan to provide emergency water aid to affected populations. Since mid-August, northwest Syria has experienced an increase in artillery shelling and airstrikes, resulting in the deaths of 12 civilians and injuries to 31 others in November alone, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. As of December, airstrikes remained frequent and continued to occur in the vicinity of civilian areas and internally displaced person (IDP) settlements, the UN reports.

WHO Requests \$258 Million to Address Health Needs of 12.2 Million Syrians

On December 27, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) released an appeal requesting \$258 million to address the emergency health needs of 12.2 million people in Syria during 2022. Overall, the appeal aims to support the provision of primary, secondary, trauma, and mental health care; immunization and nutrition services; and coronavirus disease (COVID-19) prevention, treatment, and vaccination to Syria's most vulnerable households. Armed conflict, economic instability, and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to disrupt the country's already fragile health system, particularly in the northwest and northeast. In northwest Syria, where more than 130 of the region's 610 health facilities were non-operational as of late 2021, approximately 3.1 million residents will require health assistance in 2022, representing approximately 70 percent of the region's population. Further, the northwest's lack of fuel and safe drinking water, low levels of public health awareness, and limited health facilities are exacerbating morbidity and mortality rates. To support health actors' ability to respond to acute and priority health needs in the region, WHO is requesting increased supplies of oxygen generators, medications, and lab supplies, as well as support to bolster case management services.

WHO noted that health needs in northeast Syria also remain dire in 2022, with no noticeable improvements compared to the previous year. Health facilities and the availability of health actors remain critically limited, hindering the region's capacity to respond to increasing health needs. In addition, the northeast experiences frequent shortages of medical supplies as health and relief actors face challenges importing health commodities, an issue of growing concern since January 2020 when the UN Security Council revoked authorization for UN cross-border access into northeast Syria through Iraq's Yarubiyah border crossing. Meanwhile, insufficient access to safe drinking water in the area linked to protracted drought and the associated decline of water levels in the Euphrates River since January 2021 has increased the prevalence of acute diarrhea, malnutrition, and parasitic diseases in the region.

UNFPA Report Highlights Primary Drivers of GBV Across Syria in 2021

During 2021, women and girls across Syria reported increased rates of gender-based violence (GBV) in various forms—including emotional, psychological, and physical violence—as well as social stigma and discrimination, according to a December UN Population Fund (UNFPA) report summarizing focus group discussions with more than 800 Syrian women. The report attributed exacerbated GBV exposure and risks to a combination of a prolonged humanitarian crisis; the Syrian economy's swift deterioration; and the secondary, lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNFPA notes that continued armed conflict—namely in Al Hasakah, Aleppo, Dar'a, and Idlib governorates—had a direct impact on rising rates of violence against women and girls, significantly hindering their movement and ability to seek aid,

employment, health care, and protection services, and increasing their vulnerability and exposure to abuse. Movements, such as recurring displacements and returns to areas of origin, also posed GBV risks, including sexual violence during travel, early and forced marriage to reduce the cost of return, and family violence linked to property ownership.

The report also identified economic decline—including the Syrian pound’s devaluation and price increases for basic goods—as one of the central drivers of Syria’s worsening humanitarian crisis in 2021. An estimated 90 percent of Syria’s population lived below the poverty line and a record 60 percent were food-insecure during the year, according to the UN. Poverty and unemployment rates were significantly higher in female-headed households, where average income deficits were 30 percent compared to 15 percent among male-headed households. UNFPA underscores that rising levels of food insecurity, poverty, and unemployment associated with economic deterioration exacerbate women’s and girls’ risk of exposure to GBV, such as early marriage and child labor for adolescent girls. Further, interviewed women and girls emphasized that the combination of a long-term humanitarian crisis and rapidly worsening economic circumstances is leading to the gradual erosion of their resilience.

In addition, the continuation of COVID-19-related containment measures, such as movement restrictions, curfews, quarantines, and social distancing, combined with broader economic decline across Syria drove more Syrians into unemployment, forcing many to remain at home. Women and girls interviewed for the report largely underscored that the prolonged presence of men in the home combined with stress due to livelihood losses led to a rise in physical, psychological, and sexual violence committed against them. Some of UNFPA’s recommendations for responding to increased GBV rates in Syria include the expansion of health, legal, protection, and psychosocial services for women and girls; increased support for women’s and girl’s economic resilience; and improved GBV awareness, prevention, and accountability within communities.

Food Prices Reach New Records as Syrians Struggle to Access Food Markets

November marked the third consecutive month that food prices reached record highs across Syria, according to a recent UN World Food Program (WFP) market price analysis. During the month, the national average price of the WFP standard reference food basket—the cost for a group of essential food commodities, including bread, lentils, rice, and oil—increased 5 percent compared to October and 115 percent compared to November 2020, reaching more than 213,000 Syrian Pounds, or approximately \$85, representing the highest recorded monthly average reference food basket price in Syria since the UN agency began monitoring in 2013. The price of the standard reference food basket increased significantly across all of Syria’s 14 governorates in November compared to the same period in 2020, with the highest spike recorded in Rif Damascus Governorate at approximately 140 percent. In addition to increasing food prices, Syrian households continued to encounter challenges accessing markets, a problem that rising gasoline prices and ongoing fuel shortages exacerbated countrywide. During the month, nearly 40 percent of interviewed households reported experiencing difficulty accessing food markets, marking a nearly 20 percent increase compared to November 2020 and the highest national average level recorded since April 2020.

KEY FIGURES



5.9 Million

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



5 Million

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and 12 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-for-food support, 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 and food vouchers for Syrian refugees. WFP and USAID/BHA-funded NGO partners provide monthly food assistance to more than 5.9 million Syrians, including more than 4.8 million people inside Syria and 1.1 million refugees across Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA funds 13 partners, including UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO, to provide critical health assistance in Syria, cumulatively supporting approximately 480 health facilities. USAID/BHA-supported activities include community-based health education, direct health services through mobile medical units, reproductive health services, the provision of equipment for health facilities, and training for Syrian medical workers. USAID/BHA is supporting additional NGOs to bolster COVID-19 health response capacity in Syria by establishing primary health care services in areas with limited health infrastructure, providing equipment to intensive care and isolation facilities, and promoting effective infection prevention and control practices.

State/PRM partner 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 care facilities. 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. From January to September, nearly 159,000 individuals benefitted from UNHCR-supported primary health care services and 15,600 people received health consultations. During the same time period, UNHCR partners also referred 2,800 people in need of mental health and psychosocial support to specialized services and 1,400 people to secondary health care services.



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

WASH

USAID/BHA supports 12 NGO partners, as well as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF, to provide WASH assistance in Syria. USAID/BHA partners distribute essential hygiene items to vulnerable populations and enhance WASH facilities by rehabilitating small-scale sanitation and water systems—such as handwashing stations and latrines—in displacement camps and informal settlements. In northern Syria, USAID/BHA partners increase access to safe drinking water through emergency water trucking and the distribution of water storage tanks and water treatment devices. Furthermore, USAID/BHA is supporting NGOs to bolster COVID-19 response capacity in Syria by increasing water trucking frequency to communities and 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 and one international organization in Jordan—to provide safe drinking water for Syrian refugees.



245

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

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR identifies protection cases, provides referrals to legal aid services, and facilitates community-based protection interventions for conflict-affected and displaced Syrians in both Syria and neighboring countries. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR supports 119 mobile units, more than 91 community centers, and 35 satellite centers throughout Syria, providing psychosocial support services, legal counseling, and case management and referrals. From January to June, UNHCR provided child protection and GBV awareness-raising sessions across Syria to approximately 50,000 and 39,000 people, respectively. Overall, UNHCR provided legal support to more than 129,000 displaced persons, returnees, and host community members, as well as awareness-raising sessions on child protection issues to approximately 23,000 children and their families between January and September. State/PRM also supports IOM, UNICEF, and 28 NGO partners to provide protection assistance, including legal documentation and case management services, for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.

USAID/BHA funds 14 protection partners, including IOM, UNFPA, and UNICEF, to provide psychosocial support, learning and recreational opportunities, and case management and referral services for children at high risk of exploitation and abuse. USAID/BHA also supports safe spaces for women and girls, as well as medical supplies and specialized training for health staff to provide appropriate care for GBV survivors throughout Syria.



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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. From January to June, UNHCR distributed more than 2,000 tents to four camps in northeast Syria, the majority of which were distributed in Al Hasakah's Al Hol camp. State/PRM also supports 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 U.S. Government (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 announced the capture of the last ISIS strongholds in Syria.
- On July 9, 2021, the UN Security Council (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 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
SYRIA			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, International Procurement (LRIP), Vouchers; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$456,114,561
IOM	HCIMA, MPCA, Natural Hazards and Technical Risks, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$26,660,000
UNFPA	Health, MPCA, Protection	Syria	\$13,400,350
UNICEF	HCIMA, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$15,450,001
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Syria	\$2,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—LRIP, Vouchers; HCIMA; Nutrition	Syria	\$217,180,000
WHO	Health	Syria	\$13,400,000
Program Support		Syria	\$726,881
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$744,931,793
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education; Food Assistance—LRIP, Vouchers; Health; Livelihoods; Protection; Relief Commodities; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Syria	\$61,303,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), HCIMA, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$110,300,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection	Syria	\$1,500,000
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	\$38,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN SYRIA			\$212,003,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN SYRIA IN FY 2021			\$956,934,793

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
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EGYPT			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Egypt	\$20,280,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN EGYPT			\$20,280,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection	Egypt	\$2,577,523
UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities	Egypt	\$12,790,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection	Egypt	\$4,800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN EGYPT			\$20,167,523
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN EGYPT IN FY 2021			\$40,447,523
IRAQ			
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$11,084,523
IOM	Education, Livelihoods, Protection	Iraq	\$2,190,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq	\$30,290,000
UNICEF	Education, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Iraq	\$2,100,000
WHO	Health	Iraq	\$3,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN IRAQ			\$48,664,523
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN IRAQ IN FY 2021			\$48,664,523
JORDAN			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers	Jordan	\$72,800,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$72,800,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$34,648,361
IOM	Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection	Jordan	\$3,000,000
UN International Labor Organization (ILO)	Livelihoods	Jordan	\$2,394,899
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Jordan	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Education, HCIMA, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan	\$92,143,600
UNICEF	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Jordan	\$39,360,000
UNWRA	Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan	\$8,800,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN JORDAN			\$181,346,860

TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN JORDAN IN FY 2021			\$254,146,860
LEBANON			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP, Vouchers	Lebanon	\$105,500,000
Program Support			\$92,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$105,592,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$34,368,228
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Livelihoods, Protection	Lebanon	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$121,366,400
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Lebanon	\$105,400,000
UNRWA	Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Lebanon	\$19,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN LEBANON			\$285,534,628
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2021			\$391,126,628
TURKEY			
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Vouchers	Turkey	\$10,760,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN TURKEY			\$10,760,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Turkey	\$24,739,877
IOM	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Turkey	\$16,930,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Turkey	\$1,300,000
UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Turkey	\$62,180,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Turkey	\$47,170,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN TURKEY			\$152,319,877
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN TURKEY IN FY 2021			\$163,079,877
REGIONAL			
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Education, Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection	Regional	\$7,500,000
UNRWA	Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Regional	\$100,000

TOTAL REGIONAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$7,600,000
TOTAL REGIONAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$7,600,000

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

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$954,363,793
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$907,636,411
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021	\$1,862,000,204

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

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2021	\$7,086,702,674
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2021	\$6,958,147,848
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2021	\$14,044,850,522

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)