



SYRIA - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #9, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

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 2018

5.6 million

Syrian Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – September 2019

3.7 million

Syrian Refugees in Turkey
UNHCR – September 2019

919,578

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
UNHCR – September 2019

657,445

Syrian Refugees in Jordan
UNHCR – September 2019

229,285

Syrian Refugees in Iraq
UNHCR – September 2019

438,000

Palestinian Refugees in Syria
UNRWA – June 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- GoRF and SARG announce unilateral ceasefire in Idlib; insecurity persists
- More than 400,000 people flee GoRF and SARG offensive in northwest Syria
- SARC and UN launch mission to deliver assistance, support voluntary relocations at Rukban
- USG provides nearly \$1.5 billion in FY 2019 to assist vulnerable populations in Syria and Syrian refugees in neighboring countries

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2019

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$1,950,692,988
USAID/FFP ²	\$3,287,437,637
State/PRM ³	\$5,260,812,775

\$10,498,943,400

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) and Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) announced a unilateral ceasefire in Idlib Governorate on August 31 following several months of a continued GoRF and SARG offensive targeting armed opposition group (AOG)-controlled areas of the governorate. While the number of airstrikes subsided following the ceasefire announcement, relief actors continued to report instances of shelling and isolated airstrikes in southern Idlib through September. The UN reports that GoRF and SARG airstrikes killed more than 1,000 civilians in northwest Syria between April 29 and September 30.
- In August, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and UN agencies began a three-phase operation to assist populations living at the informal Rukban settlement—located along the Jordan–Syria border berm—where humanitarian conditions have continued to deteriorate in recent months. Nearly 19,000 people departed Rukban between late March and early September, and the UN and SARC plan to assist in the voluntary relocation of remaining individuals who wish to leave the site for other areas of Syria.
- On September 20, upon receiving SARG approval, UN Secretary-General (SYG) António Guterres appointed Imran Riza as UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria based in the capital, Damascus; the position had been vacant since December 2018.
- In FY 2019, the U.S. Government (USG) provided nearly \$1.5 billion to address the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations throughout Syria and of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. The funding, provided through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and State/PRM, supports food; health; protection; shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and other programs for vulnerable populations.

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 AND DISPLACEMENT

Northwestern Syria

- Despite the announcement of a GoRF–SARG unilateral ceasefire in Idlib on August 31, airstrikes on AOG-controlled areas in the governorate resumed on September 12, and limited airstrikes and shelling continued in the region as of September 30, international media report. Between May 1 and September 20, GoRF and SARG airstrikes and shelling resulted in the displacement of more than 400,000 people in western Aleppo, northern Hamah, and southern Idlib governorates, including populations displaced multiple times, according to the UN. Additionally, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recorded more than 1,000 deaths, in addition to damage to civilian and humanitarian infrastructure, in northwest Syria since the start of the GoRF–SARG offensive in late April. Prior to the implementation of the ceasefire, airstrikes and shelling killed at least 76 civilians between August 16 and 28 alone, according to the UN.

Northeastern Syria

- The UN reports that the population in Al Hasakah Governorate’s Al Hol camp has remained stable in recent months, with approximately 68,600 people sheltering in the camp as of September 25. Relief agencies continue efforts to scale up services for vulnerable populations in Al Hol and meet ongoing humanitarian needs in the camp, including through daily delivery of safe drinking water and provision of food and hygiene kits. However, relief actors continue to highlight the need to improve existing camp infrastructure and availability of services, including health services and WASH infrastructure.

Southern Syria

- Populations continued to depart the informal Rukban settlement in recent months. Approximately 19,000 people—more than 45 percent of the existing population as of February 2019—departed the informal Rukban settlement from March 24 to September 3, including approximately 2,200 people who had departed since July 10, according to the UN. The majority of those departing the site transited to collective shelters in Homs Governorate before eventually relocating to areas of origin or other locations.
- In August, the SARC and UN launched the first phase of a three-part operation to Rukban, conducting assessments to determine residents’ emergency needs and intentions to depart the settlement. Following the assessments, a joint SARC–UN convoy traveled to Rukban in mid-September, delivering food assistance sufficient for approximately 3,000 households, as well as nutritional supplies for children, and facilitating the voluntary departure of more than 300 individuals. The assistance represented the third delivery to the site since November 2018, with the previous delivery occurring in February. The SARC and UN plan to facilitate the voluntary relocation of remaining Rukban residents in subsequent phases of the operation.

PROTECTION

- With USAID/OFDA support, a non-governmental organization (NGO) provided protection-related support to nearly 3,100 children across Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, and Ar Raqqa governorates during August, including recreational activities for conflict-affected children and information sessions for children and adults on protection risks and protection risk mitigation. In Al Hasakah, the NGO also implemented informal education activities in child-friendly spaces to prepare children to return to school.
- A USAID/OFDA partner also responded to the protection needs of households in Idlib’s Dana District displaced by conflict in northern Hamah and other areas of southern Idlib. The NGO provided psychosocial support (PSS) sessions for more than 5,000 displaced individuals who had recently arrived in Dana.
- With support from State/PRM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided protection services, including PSS, to more than 6,300 people across Aleppo and Idlib in August as part of ongoing provision of multi-sector assistance in northwest Syria.

HEALTH

- The targeting of health care infrastructure remains a critical threat and continues to hinder access to health care services in northern Syria, with the UN reporting more than 60 attacks on health care facilities and personnel from January to August. From August 28 to 30 alone, GoRF and SARG airstrikes damaged or destroyed seven health care facilities in northwest Syria, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Despite these challenges, USG partners continue to provide critical health services throughout the country. From January to August, USG partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) supported the vaccination of nearly 3.3 million children ages five years and younger against polio, as well as more than 300,000 children with other routine vaccinations. During the same months, the UN organization also supported health consultations for nearly 1.3 million women and children, trained nearly 1,500 community health volunteers, and reached more than 2.5 million people with health promotion messages.
 - State/PRM partner UNHCR also continues to support access to health care through distributions of health care supplies and medical devices. During the month of August, the UN agency supported populations across Rif Damascus Governorate with medical supplies, including asthma spray, blood glucose meters, crutches, medical beds, and wheelchairs.
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FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

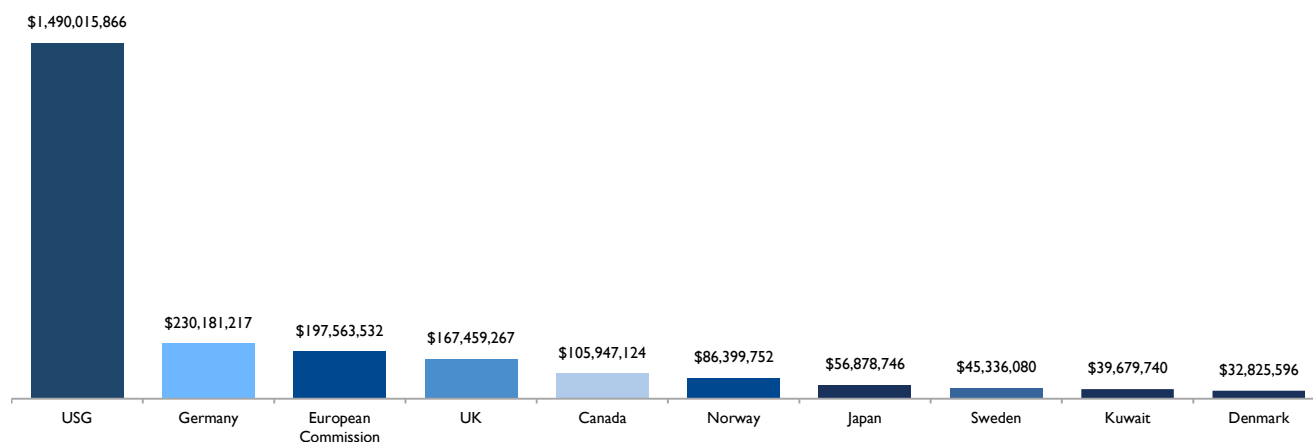
- With USAID/FFP support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided food assistance to approximately 4.3 million people in Syria in September through regular deliveries within the country and via cross-border assistance. During the month, WFP provided ready-to-eat food rations to approximately 67,600 people recently displaced by conflict, as well as food assistance to more than one million people in northwestern Syria delivered cross-border. In August, WFP reached 4 million people across the country with general food assistance, as well as approximately 110,900 newly displaced people with ready-to-eat food rations. Amid security and access challenges, more than 20 percent of general food assistance distributions in August comprised cross-border operations from Turkey to hard-to-reach areas in western Aleppo and Idlib.
 - In July, WFP commenced a three-month transitional emergency food assistance program to deliver assistance to populations in newly accessible areas of Dar’a and Quneitra governorates. In coordination with SARC, WFP reached 832,300 people in the governorates by late September.
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WASH, SHELTER, AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

- Five USAID/OFDA partners continued to conduct WASH activities to meet the needs of populations throughout Syria during August. The partners supported 44,500 people in Aleppo and 32,900 people in Rif Damascus through the rehabilitation of sewage networks. The organizations also conducted debris removal in one community in Dayr az Zawr, supporting approximately 20,000 people. Additionally, the partners improved safe drinking water access for approximately 15,000 people in Homs through borehole rehabilitation and 1,700 people in Hamah through the installation of water tanks.
- USG partners UNICEF and WHO report that WASH interventions—including hygiene awareness campaigns, purification tablet and hygiene kit distribution, and water testing—resulted in a significant reduction in diarrheal disease cases in Al Hol camp in recent months. Relief actors reported approximately 60 cases during the week of September 12, compared to more than 1,000 weekly cases at the end of June and nearly 660 weekly cases at the end of July.
- As conflict persisted across northwest Syria, State/PRM partner UNHCR reached more than 26,000 households in northwest Syria from January to August through cross-border delivery of tents and other relief commodities, including blankets, hygiene kits, and mattresses, to support recently displaced populations. Overall, organizations coordinating through the Non-Food Items Cluster—led by UNHCR—have supported more than 2.6 million people across Syria with relief items in 2019.

2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of September 30, 2019. 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 calendar year 2019, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FY 2019, which runs from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

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 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 July 14, 2014, the UN Security Council (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 for the delivery of humanitarian assistance into Syria. The resolution also establishes a monitoring mechanism under the authority of the SYG and with the consent of neighboring countries to ensure that deliveries across these border points only contain humanitarian items. The UNSC has subsequently adopted several resolutions renewing the mandate of UNSC Resolution 2165, most recently in December 2018 with the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2449, extending the authorization until January 2020.
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates approximately 486,000 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 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
NGO Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$178,211,423
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	HCIM, Health, Shelter and Settlements	Syria	\$3,001,725
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	ERMS, HCIM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Syria	\$20,187,224
OCHA	HCIM	Syria	\$4,625,000
UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)	HCIM	Syria	\$997,229
UNICEF	HCIM, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$19,000,000
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; Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); and Complementary Services	Syria	\$155,388,486
IOM	LRIP	Syria	3,015,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP, Nutrition, and 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	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	Livelihoods	Jordan	\$2,222,660
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Livelihoods, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Lebanon	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, 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, Gender-Based Violence, 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 September 30, 2019.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2019

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$1,950,692,988
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$3,287,437,637
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$5,260,812,775
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SYRIA RESPONSE IN FYs 2012–2019	\$10,498,943,400

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>