

# Syria

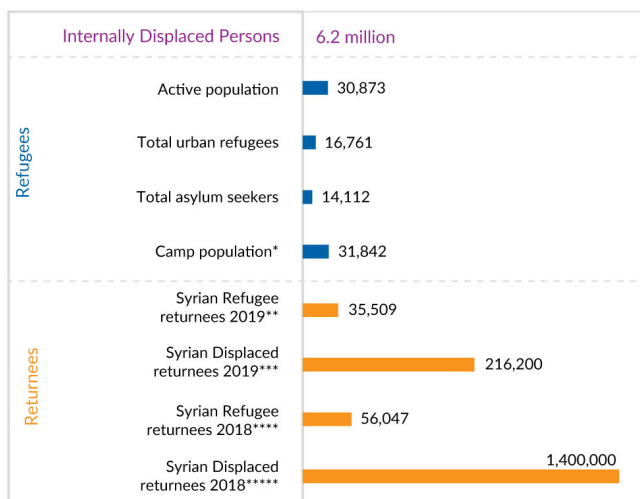
May 2019

With the Syria crisis in its ninth year, humanitarian needs remain staggering in terms of scale, severity and complexity, with significant protection risks continuing in a number of areas across the country.

According to the 2019 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), some 11.7 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance, of whom 5 million people are in acute need.

Rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access remains challenging. The UN continues to advocate for sustained access for humanitarian actors to provide assistance and protection to all people in need, across the affected area.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

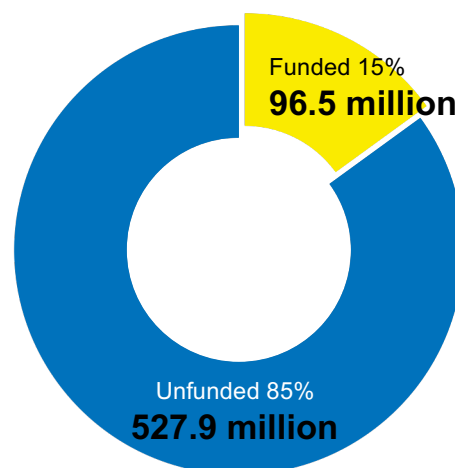


\* Only 6,800 individuals that arrived to camp before the recent influx are persons of concern of UNHCR  
 \*\* UNHCR, 31 May 2019  
 \*\*\* IDPs Taskforce 2019  
 \*\*\*\* UNHCR, December 2018  
 \*\*\*\*\* OCHA, December 2018

## FUNDING (AS OF 29 MAY 2019)

**USD 624.4 million**

requested for the Syria Operation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 518

449 National Staff

69 International Staff

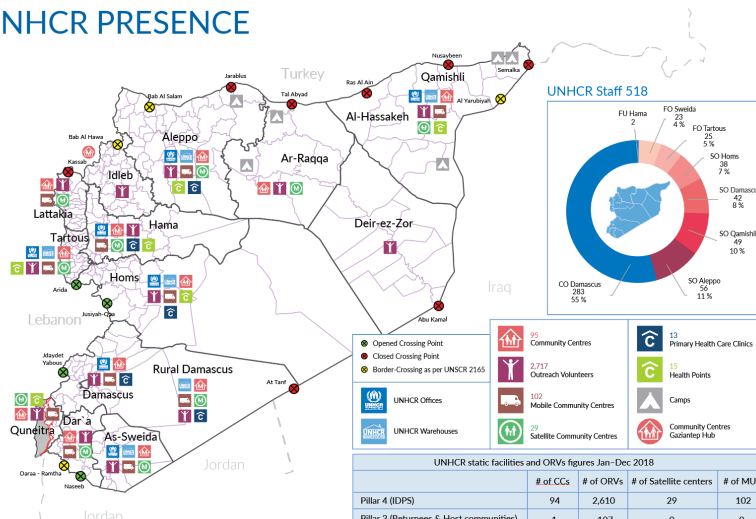
### Offices:

1 Country Office in Damascus

4 Sub Offices in Aleppo, Homs, Damascus and Qamishli

2 Field Offices in Tartous and As-Sweida

## UNHCR PRESENCE



## Working with Partners and Public Institutions

UNHCR's main governmental counterpart in Syria is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates (MoFAE). Line ministries essential for UNHCR's work include the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MoSAL), the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI). UNHCR with other UN agencies also maintained its relations with the High Relief Committee and the Coordination Commission on Returns that is chaired by the Minister of MoLAE.

As of end of May, UNHCR has 25 partners including six international NGOs, 17 national NGOs and two government entities (Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and Ministry of Higher Education). The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is one of the key humanitarian agencies in Syria that is engaged in various aspects of humanitarian response.

UNHCR's position as lead agency for both the Protection/Community Service Sector and the Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Sector makes it a key player in the coordination structures and response. The Shelter Sector is co-led by UNHCR and the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, whereas the NFI Sector is led by UNHCR in close coordination with SARC.

UNHCR will maintain its strategic partnerships with UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, WFP, UN HABITAT, WHO, UNRWA and FAO focusing on livelihoods and self-reliance projects. Along with other UN agencies, UNHCR will increasingly engage with development actors to analyse and assess needs for a smooth reintegration of returnees within the broader recovery and development agenda of these actors should the situation evolve. UNHCR Syria will continue to engage in the inter-agency discussion on a framework which succeeds the 2016-2019 "Strategic Framework for Cooperation between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations".

## Strategic Directions

According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), a total of 11.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.2 million displaced persons. Some 5 million are in acute need due to a convergence of vulnerabilities resulting from displacement, direct exposure to hostilities, conditions in sites and collective shelters, returns to destroyed and improvised areas and limited access to basic needs and services. In 2018, 1.6 million population movements were recorded due to simultaneous crises in north-west (Idleb and Afrin), parts of south-west (Dar'a and Quneitra) and eastern Syria (Deir-ez-Zor) including Eastern Ghouta that required massive humanitarian response.

At the same time, self-organized returns of IDPs and refugees from neighbouring countries continue to areas where stability has been restored, hostilities declined or ceased and that have become accessible, requiring an expanded response. Around 1.4 million spontaneous IDP returns were recorded in 2018, with 56,047 Syrian refugee who were registered with UNHCR offices particularly in Lebanon and Jordan returned. As of end of May, 216,200 displaced persons in Syria are estimated to have returned to their homes, while UNHCR recorded 35,509 Syrian refugees having spontaneously returned between January and May 2019. An increase in self-organized returns of refugees during the year is expected. It is noteworthy that the numbers of returnees that are not verifiable in UNHCR database are perceived to be much higher. In 2019, while progress is being made towards safe and dignified return of Syrians, UNHCR is prepared for potential larger-scale voluntary returns.

Based on the above assumptions, and within the framework of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), UNHCR's strategic directions and operational priorities are:

- Prepare for and respond to potential influx of IDPs and refugees, as well as returns of IDPs and refugees.

- Contribute to fostering an environment for voluntary, dignified, safe and sustainable return of refugees and IDPs with particular focus on support for those who have returned spontaneously and their communities.
- Enhance protective environment for refugees and promote innovative solutions shifting from individualized approaches to more community-based interventions.
- Strengthen delivery-focused partnerships to achieve the above through inter-agency and sector coordination fora, including the Special Situations Group (SSG), UN Country Team (UNCT), Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Return and Reintegration Working Group (RRWG) and Area Humanitarian Country Teams (AHCTs).

## Main Activities

### Protection

UNHCR's IDP response strategy for 2019 aims at reducing vulnerabilities, strengthening resilience and enhancing protection through a wide range of community-based activities, with particular attention to the most vulnerable. UNHCR leads the Protection/Community Services Sector and continues to adapt operational activities to address the needs of affected populations including the anticipated larger number of IDP returns and growing refugee returns, capitalizing on expected further improvements in access to people of concern and the integrated protection response provided through community centres, satellite centres, mobile teams and outreach volunteers. Also, continuous priority is given to the legal aid project to address civil documentation needs. UNHCR is co-leading the working groups on civil documentation and Housing, Land and Property (HLP).

By end of May, the number of operational UNHCR-funded community centres and satellite centres stands at 94 community centres and 29 satellite centres, supported with a network of 103 mobile units and 2,610 Outreach Syrian Volunteers (ORVs) which are all providing protection interventions including community mobilization, child protection, legal aid, prevention and response of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), livelihood and services for persons with specific needs. In May, following a thorough assessment by UNHCR, it was decided to relocate a satellite centre in Jibreen to Al-Jalloum in Aleppo which is in need of protection assistance.

Furthermore, 621,009 individuals were reached by end of May through protection interventions, including 453,402 individuals reached with general protection activities, 64,053 individuals with child protection activities and 103,554 individuals reached through awareness raising campaigns on SGBV prevention and response activities throughout 14 governorates.

Moreover, UNHCR partners; SARC and the Syria Trust provided till end of May legal assistance to 120,323 individuals including 64,259 individuals who benefited from legal counselling, 6,761 individuals who benefited from direct interventions before courts and administrative bodies and 49,303 individuals who benefited from 2,273 awareness raising sessions. The legal assistance was related mainly to documentation of civil events, authentication of customary marriages, birth registrations, lineage authentication, and divorce authentication in the context of prevention of gender-based violence, alimony, and custody rights of women, property documentation, lease contracts and inheritance.

### Emergency response

Since the beginning of December 2018, more than 64,000 individuals arrived from Hajin to Al-Hol camp in Al-Hasakeh due to hostilities. The total population of Al-Hol camp reached as of end of May 73,782 individuals.

As an Inter-Agency response, all humanitarian actors on the ground intensified efforts during this humanitarian emergency. UNHCR responded through provision of core-relief items, shelter kits and tents as well as protection services. UNHCR and partners set up a 24-hour response teams to receive the newly displaced people, quickly identify the most vulnerable cases and provide urgent assistance, especially to unaccompanied or separated children and those who require immediate medical assistance. UNHCR scaled

up its protection services by opening community, satellite and mobile centres in the camp to be able to respond to the urgent and dire protection needs.

By end of May, it was agreed to allocate phases 1, 2, 3 and 7 in the camp to Iraqi families and phases 4, 5, 6 and 8 to Syrian families. Both phases 6 and 8 are activated with a total capacity of 2,808 plots. In addition, UNHCR started the implementation of its new tents' allocation plan, giving the priority to families who are living in the communal spaces, then segregating the Syrian families in phase 7 and relocating them to phase 8 and changing the locations of all activities including the Education and Child Friendly Space.

### **Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)**

Due to massive destruction of homes, shelter needs are overwhelming and the capacities of UN agencies, NGOs and local institutions are inadequate to provide the required large-scale response. The strengthened sector's lead role by UNHCR since 2015 has provided a sound basis for increasing traditional emergency services while developing more durable shelter solutions, such as owner-oriented shelter assistance.

At a strategic level, humanitarian assistance is intrinsically linked with protection. UNHCR aims to mitigate protection risks by providing Core Relief Items (CRIs) to internally displaced persons and returnees as well as to vulnerable host community members. The standard family kit of core relief items includes five high thermal blankets, three sleeping mats, three mattresses, two jerry cans, one plastic sheet, one kitchen set and one solar lamp. Supplementary items are also distributed to those most in need including sleeping bags, winter jackets, rechargeable fans, hygiene kits and family tents.

Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR provided 760,881 individuals with at least one core relief and supplementary item.

A core part of UNHCR's protection mission is to guarantee access to adequate shelter in humanitarian emergencies. Therefore, UNHCR Syria provides shelter support for internally displaced people who fled hostilities as well as returnees who were back to completely or partially damaged houses in their areas of origin.

Emergency shelter assistance involves the provision of immediate lifesaving assistance, such as the rehabilitation of public and private collective shelters, the provision of shelter kits, and establishment of camp-related infrastructure, as well as the distribution of tents. Long-term shelter assistance focused on the provision of support to those returning to their places of origin. Capacity building of partners was also delivered to provide UNHCR counterparts with the skills to conduct safety structure assessments for damaged buildings, project management, and technical engineering in emergencies.

Infrastructure rehabilitation for returnees and host communities includes debris removal, solid waste distribution, minor rehabilitation for water and sanitation in returnee areas, in association with the rehabilitation of damaged houses.

From January to May 2019, UNHCR provided shelter interventions to 73,001 individuals/14,600 families.

### **Livelihoods and Self-Reliance**

UNHCR's livelihoods and self-reliance activities aim at increasing the level of people's self-reliance and reducing their dependency on assistance by building their skills and knowledge, as well as providing access to the resources, training, assets, inputs, services and markets they need and providing a sufficient source of income.

UNHCR livelihood activities are linked to the network of community centres where displaced persons, refugees, returnees and host communities benefited from life skills and vocational training with topics based on market assessments. Tailored livelihood toolkits were distributed following the courses to allow participants to generate income on the basis of their newly acquired skills. In addition, UNHCR supports families with start-up small business grants, and entrepreneurship and vocational training.

As of end of May, 1,624 persons of concern in ten governorates received livelihoods toolkits in 10 governorates including blacksmithing, computer maintenance, sewing, carpentry, female hairdressing and mobile maintenance toolkits. Additionally, 20 individuals benefited from UNHCR's vocational training courses in Rural Damascus and 299 individuals benefited from the entrepreneurship/ business trainings in seven governorates.

## Health

The physical damage of health facilities and the lack of qualified health staff have seriously affected the availability and quality of primary healthcare services in Syria. Following years of sustained support in the health sector, UNHCR will continue disengaging from supporting primary healthcare clinics and adopting a community-based approach through the establishment of health points in the community centres. This aims at raising awareness on health promotion and disease prevention, empower communities to actively influence their own health to efficiently prevent health problems, and identify diseases early to prevent serious complications, death and disability. Health workers also provide individual and family counselling, conduct focus group discussions and engage the community in centres and through outreach volunteers and mobile teams.

Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR assisted 161,581 displaced persons with Primary Health Care (PHC) services through 13 PHC clinics. A total of 951 displaced persons benefited from emergency and life-saving referrals. Moreover, a total of 25,026 individuals were reached by the community-based health activities through the health points in the community centres. Currently 12 health points are functional in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Tartous, Quneitra, Dar'a and Al-Hasakeh.

## Assistance and support to refugees and asylum seekers

The Government of Syria continues with its policy of tolerance and support to the refugees and asylum seekers on its territory. UNHCR is working closely with the Syrian government to address a number of issues related to protection and assistance of asylum seekers and refugees. UNHCR's strategy for refugees is to provide support to increase their physical and legal protection and identify durable solutions, through the provision of a multi-purpose cash grant for vulnerable refugees, material assistance, health care, education, livelihoods, legal aid, community mobilization, resettlement and voluntary repatriation. In terms of statelessness, UNHCR will focus on advocacy for legal reform and a simplification of procedures, develop capacity and provide legal aid for civil documentation for prevention of statelessness purposes.

Syria is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or 1967 Protocol, however the State has mostly ensured access to territory, reception arrangements, and asylum for those in need. UNHCR has continued to exercise its mandate for refugee protection in Syria by ensuring continuous registration, Refugee Status Determination (RSD), issuance of documentation, provision of legal protection and basic needs, and identification of durable solutions for refugees.

UNHCR undertook Participatory Assessments (PA) and Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) with refugees for the first time since the advent of the crisis in end 2018 /early 2019. The results of the PAs have been used to inform programming, activities and strategies and to move UNHCR Syria away from a traditional Refugee Status Determination (RSD) based protection approach and towards Community-Based Protection (CBP) interventions for 2020. The CBP has become a strategic approach in UNHCR Syria operation, recognizing the central role that individuals and communities, including the host population, can play in mitigating protection risks, providing responses and facilitating access to services. The community-led initiatives included light rehabilitation of schools, WASH facilities, elderly homes and public parks, setting-up libraries managed by students, street lighting, supporting reading campaigns for youth and children and training on handicraft production.

As of end of May 2019, UNHCR assisted a total of 11,304 refugees/3,644 families with multi-purpose cash, and 5,331 asylum-seekers/1,011 families with cash for food. UNHCR provided cash-related counselling to 1,601 families, as well as hotline support to 1,168 families.

Also, as of end of May, 118 cases were submitted for resettlement consideration to Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. UNHCR also facilitated the departure on resettlement for 113 refugees to Sweden and the United Kingdom, and for 33 refugees under humanitarian or family reunification programmes to Australia and Canada. UNHCR continued to provide enhanced support to resettlement countries to facilitate resettlement

processing by collecting biometrics, completing forms and hand delivery of documents to various locations.

In addition, UNHCR provided information to 94 refugees and asylum seekers about school registration procedures in public schools and placement tests, in addition to the provision of counseling for dropout of school cases and students interested in remedial classes and other education programmes provided by UNHCR partners. A total of 472 refugee and asylum-seeker children benefited since the beginning of the year from remedial classes and accelerated learning programmes through UNHCR partner SARC in Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates.

As of end of May, 107 refugee outreach volunteers representing the refugees communities of Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Chad, Eritrea and Guinea continued to support their communities in four governorates; Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Al-Hasakeh.

Also till May, a total of 48 SGBV survivors were identified and assisted with the needed services and 47 SGBV awareness sessions have been conducted so far mainly in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Al-Hasakeh governorates where most of the refugee communities are located.

Furthermore, 20,399 refugees and asylum seekers received free-of-charge comprehensive primary health care through nine UNHCR-supported primary health care clinics run by two NGO partners in Al-Hasakeh, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Aleppo governorates. Secondary and tertiary health care was also provided to 1,246 refugees and asylum seekers through designated public, charitable and private contracted hospitals in Syria.

### **Assistance and support to spontaneous returnees**

Self-organized returns of IDPs and refugees from neighbouring countries continue to several areas where stability has been restored, hostilities declined or ceased, and which have become newly accessible. UNHCR will continue to respond to the needs of the IDP and refugee returnees with the same community-based protection approach as it has been implementing to assist internally displaced Syrians. While building on its significant capacity to respond to the needs of the returnees, UNHCR is also expanding its programmes to assist the IDP and refugee returnees as well as the affected population, including the host communities.

Under the UN Country Team (UNCT), the Return and Reintegration Working Group (RRWG) was established for which UNHCR was the secretariat in support of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC). UNHCR continues to lead the Refugee Return pillar. In collaboration with the RC/HC and the 3RP Regional Directors' Group, the RRWG is also the main point of contact between the UNHCR-run Durable Solutions Working Groups in neighbouring countries on refugee return. In April 2019, the first Technical Working Group of the RRWG was convened as a forum to engage in dialogue on thematic issues, where best practice guidance can be shared and formulated, so as to facilitate coherence and coordination between partners working in Syria on returns. The technical working group would be a forum for exchange of information, collaboration in building complementarities between efforts of various agencies and humanitarian actors working on issues related to the return of Syrian refugees, developing solutions strategy and in this regard suggest action point for coordination efforts pursued by the RRWG and its members.

Moreover, as of end of May, UNHCR conducted over 79 missions to assess conditions and needs of refugee and displaced returnees. Through these missions as well as follow up over the phone with families who have recently returned to Syria from Lebanon and Jordan, the top three key concerns identified by returnees included destroyed homes and lack of adequate shelter, lack of livelihood opportunities and lack of civil status documentation.

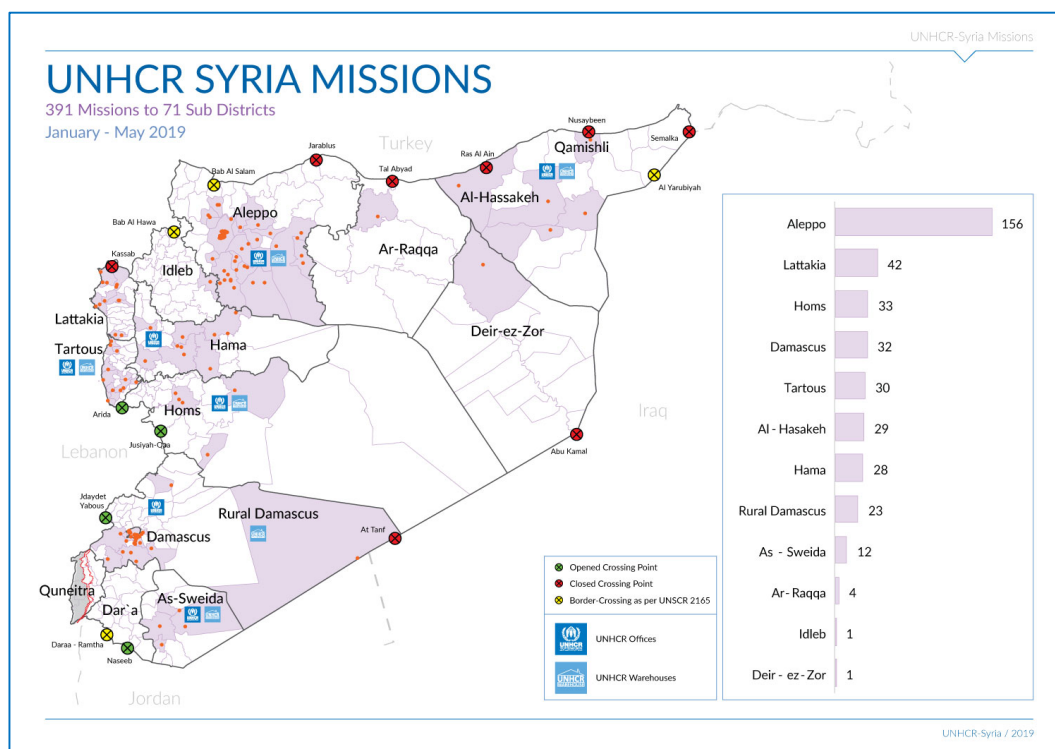
Since January, 4,879 Syrian refugees reportedly returned through group organized returns facilitated by the Government of Jordan and the Directorate of General Security of

Lebanon. The follow up assessments conducted with these returnees since December 2018 to understand their needs and refer them to local service providers, indicated many concerns including lack of livelihood opportunities, destroyed homes, lack of civil status documentation, lack of knowledge on available services as well as the need for financial assistance.

Moreover, the number of people who left Al-Rukban makeshift settlement since 24 April reached till the end of May is 13,153 individuals representing 31.5% of the 41,700 residents of Al-Rukban camp. Most of the people left the collective shelters, while some were able to return to their areas of origin the majority continued to reside in Homs governorate.

### UNHCR missions in the field

UNHCR conducts daily missions to the field in Aleppo, Idleb, Homs, Hama, Tartous, Lattakia, As-Sweida, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor. The missions took place through multi-functional teams, including colleagues from Protection, Shelter, NFI, Health and Livelihood units. The purpose of the missions is to follow up on the work of the partners and the outreach volunteers on the ground, visit high returns areas to meet with returnees and produce sub-district profiles, monitor NFI distributions and assess the overall needs in the different sectors. By end of May, UNHCR conducted 391 missions to 71 sub-districts across Syria.

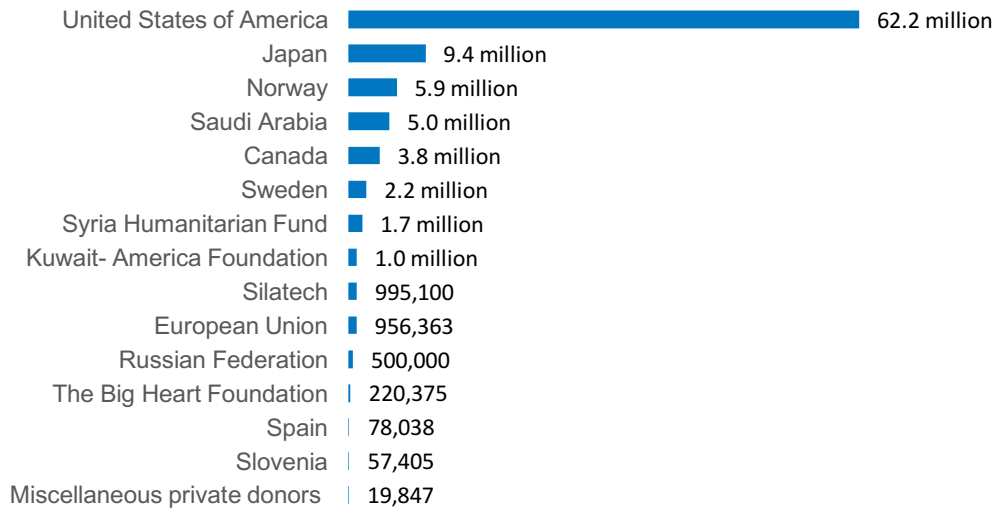


# Financial information <sup>\*\*\*\*\*</sup>

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds:

## EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 96,467,117 million**.



## BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region:

Germany 56.6 million | Private donors Australia 3.8 million | Sweden 3.3 million | United States of America 2.3 million

## UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions:

Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Private donors Spain 26.3 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 13.8 million

## CONTACTS

Toloe Masori, Reporting Officer Syria, [masori@unhcr.org](mailto:masori@unhcr.org)

Follow UNHCR Syria on:

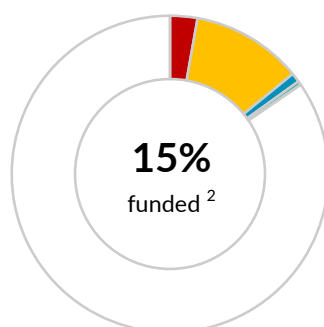
[www.unhcr.org/sy/](http://www.unhcr.org/sy/)

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

\*\*\*\*\*For more details on funding received by our donors, please see Annex 1-Syrian Arab Republic Funding Update-as of 29 May 2019



# \$624.4 million

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2019 <sup>1</sup>


## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

as of 29 May 2019



### CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup> | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	62,200,000	-	62,200,000
Japan	-	-	-	9,371,428	9,371,428
Norway	-	-	5,871,991	-	5,871,991
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
Canada	-	-	3,799,392	-	3,799,392
Sweden	-	-	2,199,978	-	2,199,978
Country-Based Pooled Funds	-	-	-	1,685,894	1,685,894
Kuwait-America Foundation	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Silatech	-	-	-	995,100	995,100
European Union	-	-	-	956,363	956,363
Russian Federation	-	-	500,000	-	500,000
The Big Heart Foundation	-	-	-	220,375	220,375
Spain	-	-	-	78,038	78,038
Slovenia	-	-	57,405	-	57,405
Miscellaneous private donors	-	-	-	19,847	19,847
<b>Sub-total</b>	-	-	<b>75,628,766</b>	<b>18,327,045</b>	<b>93,955,811</b>
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	2,464,435	5,900,396	(4,947,677)	(905,848)	2,511,306
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,464,435</b>	<b>5,900,396</b>	<b>70,681,089</b>	<b>17,421,197</b>	<b>96,467,117</b>

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Syrian Arab Republic shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>4</sup> | USD

Germany 56.6 million | Private donors Australia 3.8 million | Sweden 3.3 million | United States of America 2.3 million  
 Malta | Norway | Russian Federation | Private donors


### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>5</sup> | USD

Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Private donors Spain 26.3 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 13.8 million  
 Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

- The financial requirements for Syrian Arab Republic include requirements for the Iraq Situation Response and the Syria Situation Response.
- The percentage funded (15%) and total funding amount (\$96,467,117) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$527,915,576 representing 85% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to Syrian Arab Republic are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Syrian Arab Republic. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
- Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

For more information: <http://reporting.unhcr.org>

 Follow us on @UNHCRgov