

SYRIA



Syria remains one of the largest forced displacements of civilians the world has witnessed. After nine years, conflict continues unabated, and parties to conflict are still tearing apart civilian lives and livelihoods with widespread disregard for international law.

Country Context

In 2011, a wide-scale crackdown on anti-government protests by government forces triggered a brutal internal armed conflict, massive displacement, and an overwhelming humanitarian crisis, all of which were exacerbated by the rise of ISIS. The Syrian people require humanitarian support to meet their immediate needs, longer-term support to enable their recovery, access to durable solutions for displaced populations, and a re-commitment to achieve a political solution to the conflict.

How is the U.S. Involved?

The U.S. has provided \$10.5 billion for humanitarian response in Syria since 2011, making it the donor with the most significant response to the crisis. The U.S. also offered on the ground military support and diplomatic engagement but announced a military withdrawal in October 2019, following a similar civilian drawdown in December 2018.

Key Figures



12.7 million
people displaced



11 million
in need of humanitarian
assistance



40%
of schools damaged or
destroyed



Only 46%
of health facilities are fully
operational



\$3.3 billion
requested for Syria and
\$5.2 billion for the regional
response for 2019

On-the-Ground Perspective

- The October 2019 Turkish military incursion into northeast Syria has led to large-scale population movements. Mass movement results in acute emergency needs, which cause overcrowding at existing displacement sites and strain already-overstretched humanitarian assistance.
- Humanitarian actors continue to face access constraints by parties to the conflict and donor-driven regulatory impediments to principled humanitarian action. As a result, 1.1 million people live in hard-to-reach areas.
- Cross-border aid, authorized by U.N. Security Council Resolution 2165 in 2014, allows aid to reach approximately 4 million people in need outside of Government-controlled areas and creates a coordination infrastructure to organize and deliver aid inside Syria effectively.
- The 5.7 million Syrian refugees in neighboring countries are under increasing pressure to return to an unstable country, despite inadequate conditions for safe, voluntary, and dignified return.

Responses and Actions

- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that in 2018, humanitarian assistance reached 7.17 million people.
- Humanitarian actors supported 22.8 million medical procedures in 2018.
- 5.3 million people received food assistance every month in 2018.

InterAction has a Syria Response working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

