

Syria

January-April 2019

As of end of April 2019, UNHCR Syria provided community-based protection activities to **403,851** displaced persons, returnees and host community members, including **93,727** individuals provided with legal assistance, **67,926** children with social and recreational activities in community centres, child-friendly spaces, schools and other outreach activities, **4,232** students with remedial and catch-up classes, and **50,945** individuals taking part in SGBV awareness sessions.

Meanwhile **599,512** individuals received at least one core-relief item, **70,013** displaced persons, returnees and host community members benefited from UNHCR's shelter activities, while **157,509** individuals were supported through UNHCR's community-based health interventions, as well as over **1,000** individuals benefited from the UNHCR's livelihood programme.

UNHCR recorded **29,993** Syrian refugees having spontaneously returned between January and April 2019. An increase in self-organized returns of refugees in 2019 is expected. UNHCR will continue to respond to the needs of the displaced and refugee returnees with the same implemented community-based protection approach assisting internally displaced Syrians.

HUMANITARIAN SNAPSHOT

11.7 million

people in need of humanitarian assistance

13.2 million

people in need of protection interventions

11.3 million

people in need of health assistance

4.7 million

people in need of shelter

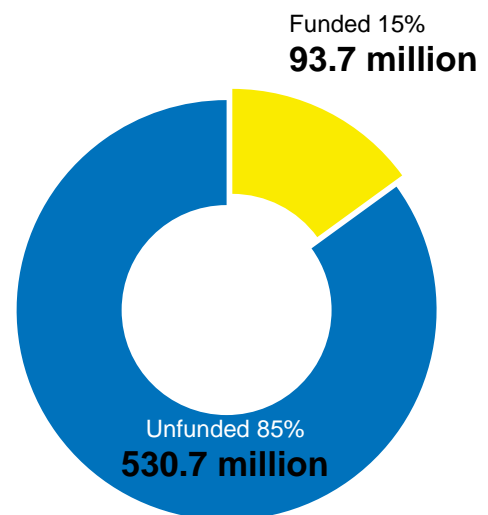
4.4 million

people in need of core relief items

FUNDING (AS OF 21 MAY 2019)

USD 624.4 million

requested for the Syria Operation



Elham, a 30 year old married women who never had the chance to continue her education. Since the onset of the crisis in Syria, Elham and her family were displaced inside Aleppo several times and her children had to drop out of school for 6 years. Elham decided to continue her school studies and assist her children in getting a proper education. She signed up for remedial classes at Al Katrji, one of UNHCR's community centres to graduate from high school. Elham wants to continue her study and become a doctor.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced persons **6.2 million**

Returnees

Syrian displaced returnees 2019 **216,200***
Syrian refugee returnees 2019 **29,993****

Refugees and Asylum seekers

Current population **31,998*****
Total urban refugees **17,906**
Total asylum seekers **14,092**
Camp population **31,480******

*IDP Taskforce 2019

** UNHCR, 30 April 2019

***This figure excludes the camp population

****Only 6,800 individuals that arrived to Al-Hol before the recent influx are persons of concern of UNHCR.

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

In the ninth year of the crisis, the humanitarian needs in Syria remained staggering in terms of scale, severity and complexity, with protection risks persisting in a number of areas. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2019, a total of 11.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.2 million people that are internally displaced. Some 5 million people are in acute need due to a convergence of vulnerabilities resulting from displacement, exposure to hostilities and limited access to basic goods and services. There are also 1.1 million people in need living in hard-to-reach locations. Major population movements took place in 2018, where 1.6 million people moved across the country.

In 2019, a major emergency situation occurred in North-East Syria leading to internal displacement and loss of lives of particularly children. UNHCR responded to this emergency through an inter-agency effort in providing life-saving assistance through its NFI/Shelter and protection programmes.

Working in partnership

In compliance with UNHCR policy on the selection and retention of partners, and in view of the operation's expansion, UNHCR undertook a full-fledged partner selection process for refugees' Project and Retention for IDP and returnees projects for 2019.

UNHCR has concluded partnership agreements with 25 partners including six international NGOs, 17 national NGOs and two government entities (Ministry of Local Administration and Environment and Ministry of Higher Education). Out of 10 national partners who have submitted the Partnership Project with UNHCR for the clearance of the Ministry of Social Affairs, one partner has received the approval so far. The partnership agreement with Al Birr (Homs) has been cancelled, as the approval was not received.

Emergency Response

Response to emergency in North-East Syria

Since the beginning of December 2018, more than 64,000 individuals arrived from Hajin to Al-Hol camp due to hostilities related to military operations against ISIS strongholds. The total population is currently 73,782 individuals, where more than 90 percent of the new arrivals are women and children.

All humanitarian actors on the ground intensified efforts to support the camp administration during this humanitarian emergency. Through inter-agency collaboration, UNHCR along with other UN agencies and ICRC responded through the provision of core-relief items, shelter kits and tents as well as protection services. UNHCR and its 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 also during April scaled up its community-based protection activities through the community, satellite centres and mobile units to serve the urgent protection needs of people in need.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

In April 2019, UNHCR established two community centres; one centre in Sahet Al Melh in Aleppo in cooperation with its partner Nama'a and another centre in Areesha camp in Al-Hasakeh governorate through its partner the Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD). Additionally, a new satellite centre in collaboration with GOPA was opened in Ein Issa camp in Ar-Raqqa governorate.

By the end of April, the number of operational UNHCR-funded community centres and satellite centres stands at 94 community centres and 30 satellite centres, supported with a network of 102 mobile units and 2,671 Outreach Volunteers (ORVs).



UNHCR opened a new community centre in the Old City of Aleppo in cooperation with its partner Nama'a

UNHCR's management system to enhance the data system at its community centres was launched during April in three community centres and two satellite centres run by SARC in As-Sweida, Quneitra and Aleppo governorates following required trainings for the staff operating in the centres, which was accomplished in cooperation with UNHCR respective Offices.

As of end of April, seven partners (GOPA, the Syria Trust, SSSD, SARC, Child Care, Al-Nada and Nama'a) started running their new data systems to identify gaps in the needs and impact of the programmes in 86 community and satellite centres in 11 governorates. A total of 918 staff members attended 29 training sessions covering the technical aspects of the project in addition to vulnerabilities, data protection policy and Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach. Four partners (Al-Batoul, Aoun, Social Care and Tamayouz) started developing their new data systems to better identify the needs, gaps and impact of the projects. The implementation is expected in the second quarter of 2019. A total of 64 community centres run by four partners (GOPA, SSSD, Al-Nada and the Syria Trust) started sharing with UNHCR, the monthly statistical inputs on programme implementation

generated from their new data systems as per the reporting templates developed by UNHCR.

In April, UNHCR provided non-formal education programmes through remedial classes and accelerated learning activities to 930 students at the primary and secondary levels in the community centres and neighborhood education facilities, out of which 124 children were out-of-school. This brings the total number to 4,232 students who benefited from the above mentioned education programmes since the beginning of the year, out of which 840 students were out of school children. Furthermore, in April, 3,329 (7,621 January – April) students benefited from the homework café activity within the community centres in different governorates.

Moreover, in April, UNHCR partners SARC and the Syria Trust provided legal assistance to 29,201 displaced persons and returnees in 14 governorates. The legal services were provided to 15,458 displaced persons who benefited from legal counseling, 12,514 displaced persons who benefited from 561 awareness sessions and 1,229 displaced persons who benefited from direct interventions before courts and administrative bodies.

As of 30 April 2019, UNHCR partners SARC and the Syria Trust provided legal assistance to a total of 93,727 displaced persons, returnees and host community members on issues related mainly to documentation of civil events in 14 governorates, authentication of customary marriages, birth registrations, lineage authentication, divorce authentication in the context of prevention of gender-based violence, alimony, custody, rights of women, property documentation, lease contracts and inheritance. The legal services were provided to 52,258 displaced persons who benefited from legal counselling, 38,455 displaced persons who benefited from 1,797 awareness sessions and 3,014 displaced persons who benefited from direct intervention before courts and administrative bodies.

In April, UNHCR and its partners identified and supported 613 (2,040 January – April) survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Furthermore, during April, 703 (2270 January – April) awareness sessions were conducted for 15,749 (50,945 January – April) individuals.

In April, 735 (2,543 January – April) awareness-raising sessions on child protection topics were organized at UNHCR's community centres, shelters, child-friendly spaces and schools targeting children, caregivers and community members. Through these interventions, children with protection risks were identified from the displaced persons and host communities. During the month of April, UNHCR identified and assisted 1,093 (3,712 January – April) children at risk. The main protection risks during the reporting period were lack of birth registration and civil documentation, risk of school dropout, child labour, child marriage, crisis-related trauma, family separation and disabilities. Moreover, in April, UNHCR along with its partners and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MoE) established 11 (161 January – April) community-based child protection structures across the country namely children clubs and child welfare committees. Additionally, during April 19,490 (67,926 January – April) children benefited from social and recreational activities conducted in community centres, child-friendly spaces, schools and other outreach activities.

The specific needs of older persons were addressed through the home-based training programme and older persons clubs, in where during April 197 (511 January – April) older persons benefited from the programmes. UNHCR continued to support children with developmental difficulties through its partners by implementing a special home-based rehabilitation programme designed to meet their specific needs and where 167 children were assisted during April, bringing the total number of children who benefited from this assistance since the beginning of the year to 534 children.



The love of sports bring communities together in a unique way. Hundreds of young and old in Souran and surrounding villages in rural Hama came together for a soccer match and marathon, a great tool to foster integration and social inclusion.

Due to the prevailing extensive stress factors linked to the crisis and its effects, the psychological needs of the people of concern continued to rise. During April, a total of 1,209 cases received Psycho-Social Support (PSS) services through community centres and outreach volunteers, out of which 97 cases were referred to specialized mental health services. As of end of April, 4,647 individuals received PSS services, out of whom 334 were referred to specialized services. Moreover, during April, a total of 32,484 individuals participated in 1,617 social and recreational events including through awareness raising sessions. As of end of April, 113,211 individuals participated in 5,267 social and recreational events. These activities aimed at assisting people in finding relief from their inner tension, increasing their ability to deal with different types of reactions especially hyper vigilance, isolation and aggression, in addition to increasing their awareness on personal identity issues, and individual characteristics, and building positive self-esteem. Different types of general and medical in-kind assistance were provided to 4,267 (5,155 January – April) vulnerable individuals in order to help them meet their various basic needs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

UNHCR is relocating a selected number of community centres based on protection needs' assessment in order to operate in areas which are underserved and/or are displaced and refugee returnees' locations. This rationalization process resulted in the relocation of several community centres in some governorates as follows: five community centres to be relocated from Homs city to rural Homs, one community centre to be relocated from Hama city to Harbnifse in rural Hama. Another community centre in Al Fied area of Aleppo was closed and relocated to Sahet Al-Melh.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

UNHCR provided 93,701 individuals with at least one core relief and supplementary item during April 2019, bringing the overall individuals who received assistance since the beginning of the year to 599,512 individuals.

UNHCR continued to provide life-saving and life-sustaining impact solutions. In April, 17,197 individuals /3,439 families in different governorates benefited from shelter assistance. Additionally, UNHCR upgraded the infrastructure capacity and distributed 60 tents in the camps in North East Syria. In Rural Damascus, UNHCR through its partners has completed the removal of 33,000 cubic meters of debris, while in other governorates, the shelter plan is still in the preparation process.

As of end of April, 71,292 individuals /14,258 families benefited from shelter and infrastructure assistance through the distribution of 155 shelter kits in Dar'a and As-Sweida and 9,639 tents in various camps in North East Syria, in addition to the provision of technical assistance, construction of communal kitchens, installation of solar streetlights, provision of solar lights, land preparation, installation of big-size tents, fence construction and establishment of new distribution centres and receptions areas.

**LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE****Achievements and Impact**

In April, UNHCR distributed livelihoods toolkits to 109 persons of concern. As of end of April, 1,129 individuals in ten governorates received assistance. The toolkits were blacksmith, mobile maintenance, sewing, carpentry, female hairdressing and mobile maintenance kits. The distribution took place following several assessments' panels in the relevant community centres. Additionally, 20 individuals benefited from UNHCR's sewing vocational training course which took place in Rural Damascus. UNHCR also supported 92 individuals with entrepreneurship and business trainings carried out in five governorates as a preparatory stage to apply for start-up small business projects.



Samer with 20 years of experience in making traditional male dresses (djellaba غلابية) was displaced with his family from Ar-Raqqa city to Al Sfireh in east rural Aleppo two years ago. Through UNHCR's business grant he managed to open his own shop. "All our financial problems were resolved once the shop opened and the business rolled in" said Samer.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

In April, UNHCR assisted 30,709 (137,271 January – April) displaced persons with Primary Health Care (PHC) services through 13 PHC clinics while 482 (658 January – April) displaced persons benefited from emergency and life-saving referrals in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Hama governorates. Moreover, a total of 5,764 (19,580 January – April) individuals were reached by the community-based health activities through the health points in the community centres: 2,539 (9,496 January – April) individuals received basic medical consultation in the clinics of the health points and 3,225 (10,084 January – April) individuals participated in and benefited from the health promotion and disease prevention activities conducted by the community-health workers inside and outside the community centres.

Currently 12 health points are functional in Aleppo, rural Aleppo, rural Hama, rural Homs, Tartous, rural Tartous, Quneitra, rural Dar'a, and Al-Hasakeh.

**PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES****Achievements and Impact**

In 2019, UNHCR continued to provide multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families, including cash for food (C4F) for asylum seekers. However, asylum seeker families were discontinued from UNHCR cash programme, effective in March 2019, following a two-month notice period.

During April, UNHCR assisted a total of 3,783 refugee households (11,846 individuals) with MPCGs. As of end of April, UNHCR assisted a total of 4,020 refugee households (12,327 individuals) with MPCGs, and 1,011 asylum-seeker households (5,331 individuals) with C4F. UNHCR also provided cash-related counselling to 1,095 families, as well as hotline support to 956 families.

During April, eight refugees were submitted to the United Kingdom and Sweden bringing the total submission, as of end of April 2019, to 117 refugees submitted for resettlement consideration to Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, as of end of April, UNHCR Syria facilitated the departure on resettlement of 90 refugees to the United Kingdom, and of 24 refugees under humanitarian or family reunification programmes to Australia and Canada. UNHCR Syria 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. As of end of April, biometrics were collected for four refugees as per the request received from the Australian embassy in Amman.

Furthermore, in April, UNHCR Syria started exploring Family Reunification opportunities for refugees who have family members in third countries as part of the Complementary Pathways for Admission of refugees in third countries. UNHCR identified a total of 63 refugees, who have spouses in a third country, as well as 380 refugees, who have children in third countries. UNHCR is undertaking the required assessments with the concerned refugees and following up with the relevant UNHCR offices in order to assess any further action that could be undertaken by the office, if any, to assist in the family reunification process.

UNHCR, in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education in Syria maintained the provision of education support to 64 refugee students to continue their university studies in different domains covering university tuition fees for the 2018/2019 academic year. Furthermore, during April UNHCR through the education dedicated hotline, provided information to 16 (79 January – April) 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.

As of end of April, 109 refugee outreach volunteers representing the refugee communities of Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Chad and Eritrea continued to support their communities in four governorates; Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Al-Hasakeh.

In April, 11 (24 January – April) new SGBV survivors were identified and assisted with the needed services, such as PSS, health care, legal aid and, material assistance, and some were provided with urgent financial grants due to their vulnerability and poor living conditions. Additionally, 11 (30 January – April) SGBV awareness sessions were conducted mainly in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Al-Hasakeh governorates, where most of the refugee communities are located. In Damascus, refugee outreach volunteers conducted sessions on life skills, women empowerment, domestic violence, early marriage and sexual harassment for women reaching out to 230 (650 January – April) persons of concern.

Furthermore, during April, a total of 4,487 (16,364 January – April) refugees and asylum seekers received free-of-charge comprehensive primary health care including mental health services 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 provided to 227 (1,029 January – April) refugees and asylum seekers through designated public, charitable and private contracted hospitals in Syria.



SUPPORT TO SPONTANEOUS RETURNS

Self-organized returns of IDPs and refugees from neighboring countries continue to several areas where stability has been restored, hostilities declined or ceased, and which have become newly accessible. As of end of April, 216,200 IDPs in Syria are estimated to have returned to their homes (according to the IDP Taskforce), while UNHCR recorded 29,993 Syrian refugees having spontaneously returned between January and April 2019. An increase in self-organized returns of refugees in 2019 is expected. UNHCR will continue to respond to the needs of the displaced and refugee returnees with the same community-based protection approach. While building on its significant capacity to respond to the needs of the returnees, UNHCR is also expanding its capacity and its programmes to assist displaced and refugee returnees as well as the affected population, including the host communities. UNHCR will expand its cooperation with the concerned Government of Syria departments to address the needs of the returnees.

As of end of April, UNHCR field teams conducted over 76 missions to access conditions and needs of refugees 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, lack of livelihood opportunities and lack of civil status documentation.

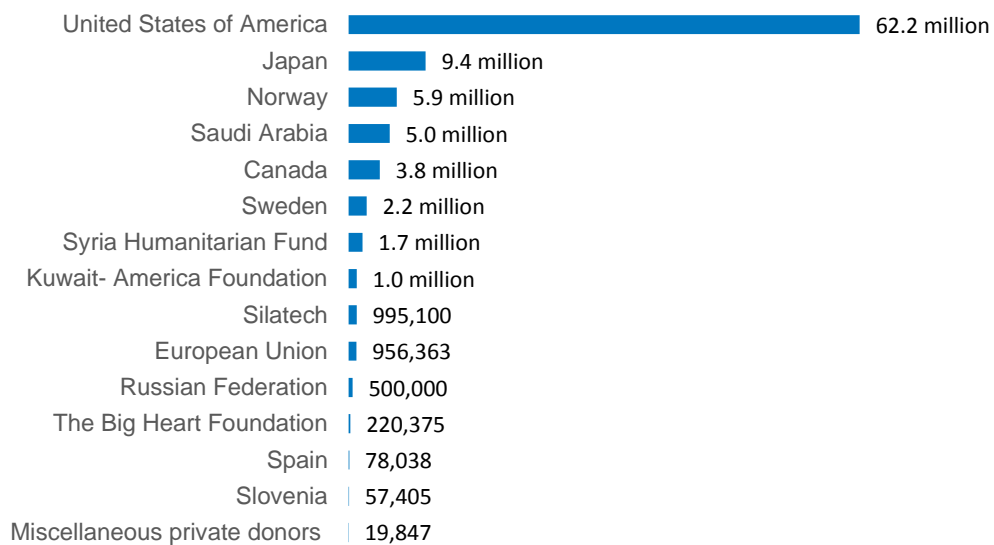
Since January, 4,537 Syrian refugees reportedly returned through group organized returns facilitated by the Government of Jordan and Directorate of General Security of Lebanon. The follow up assessments, which were conducted with these returnees since December 2018 to understand their needs and refer 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.

Financial Information ^{*****}

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\$ 93,955,811 million**.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 56.6 million | Sweden 3.3 million | Private donors Australia 2.5 million | United States of America 2.3 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | 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

CONTACTS

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***** As of 21 May 2019, please find attached in Annex more details.

LINKS

www.unhcr.org/sy

<https://twitter.com/UNHCRinSYRIA/status/1118150319341436928>

Annexes

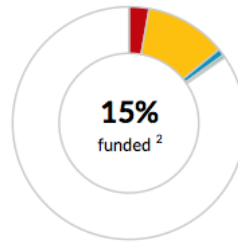
Annex 1

Syrian Arab Republic Funding Update – as of 21 May 2019.

Annex 2

UNHCR main activities as of end of April 2019

\$624.4 million
 UNHCR's financial requirements 2019 ¹



**SYRIAN ARAB
 REPUBLIC**
 as of 21 May 2019

■ Tightly earmarked
 ■ Earmarked
 ■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
 ■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
 □ Funding gap (indicative)

CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | 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
Sub-total	-	-	75,628,766	18,327,045	93,955,811
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	2,388,341	5,799,349	(4,947,677)	(905,853)	2,334,160
Total	2,388,341	5,799,349	70,681,089	17,421,193	96,289,971

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 ⁴ | USD

Germany 56.6 million | Sweden 3.3 million | Private donors Australia 2.5 million | United States of America 2.3 million
 Malta | Norway | Russian Federation | Private donors

■ UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | 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 (\$96,289,971) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$528,092,722 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>

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