

Syria

January-May 2019

As of end of May 2019, UNHCR Syria provided community-based protection to **621,009** displaced persons, returnees and host community members, including **120,323** individuals provided with legal assistance, **87,580** children with social and recreational activities in community centres, child-friendly spaces, schools and other outreach activities, **21,070** students with remedial and catch-up classes, and **73,657** individuals taking part in SGBV awareness sessions.

Meanwhile, **760,881** individuals received at least one core-relief item, **73,001** displaced persons, returnees and host community members benefited from UNHCR's shelter activities, while **187,558** individuals were supported through UNHCR's community-based health interventions, as well as **1,624** individuals benefited from the UNHCR's livelihood programme.

UNHCR recorded **35,509** Syrian refugees having spontaneously returned between January and May 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

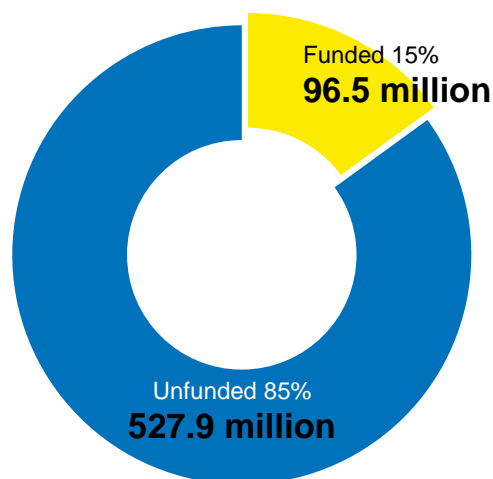
4.4 million

people in need of core relief items

FUNDING (AS OF 29 MAY 2019)

USD 624.4 million

requested for the Syria Operation



Persons of concern are visiting one of UNHCR-supported clinics "Al-Sakhour clinic" in Aleppo city seeking its wide range of medical services for symbolic fees. Al-Sakhour clinic was rehabilitated by UNHCR last year.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced persons **6.2 million**

Returnees

Syrian displaced returnees 2019 **216,200***
 Syrian refugee returnees 2019 **35,509****

Refugees and Asylum seekers

Current population **30,873*****
 Total urban refugees **16,761**
 Total asylum seekers **14,112**
 Camp population **31,842******

*IDPs Taskforce 2019

** UNHCR, 31 May 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.

As of end of May, UNHCR has 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, while the partnership agreement with one of the local partners in Homs was not approved. Moreover, UNHCR decided not to extend the partnership agreement with one of the international NGOs beyond June 2019.

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. During May, UNHCR also 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 May 2019, due to the changing needs in Aleppo and following a thorough assessment by UNHCR, it was decided to relocate a satellite centre in Jibreen in Aleppo to Al-Jalloum area in Aleppo which is in need of protection assistance.

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 Volunteers (ORVs).



At the “live broadcast” event, a group of students prepared a media and reporting presentation on community issues such as early marriage. The activity was organized at one of UNHCR-supported community centres run by UNHCR partner the Syria Trust for Development in Bab Sharqi neighborhood in Damascus.

During the month of May, UNHCR did a verification exercise to validate the monthly statistical inputs received from its partners as per the reporting templates developed by UNHCR.

The internal data management tool (DMT) for community centres is expected to be launched in June 2019. This will enable the respective UNHCR staff to smoothly navigate the outcomes and acquire the needed information as per the community centre, partner, location, vulnerabilities and provided services.

In May, UNHCR provided non-formal education programmes through remedial classes and accelerated learning activities to 16,879 (21,070 January – May) students at the primary and secondary levels in the community centres and neighborhood education facilities, out of which 1,600 (2,399 January – May) children were out-of-school. Furthermore, in May, 4,440 (11,879 January– May) displaced students benefited from the homework café activity within the community centres in different governorates. Furthermore, in May, 30 (242 January–May) returnee students benefited from the homework café activity through UNHCR partner Al- Ihsan in Aleppo governorate. Since the beginning of 2019, UNHCR provided accelerated learning activities to 41 out of school returnee children through its partner Al- Ihsan.

In May 2019, UNHCR partners Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the Syria Trust provided legal assistance to 26,596 displaced persons and returnees in 14 governorates. This includes but not limited to 1,510 individuals who obtained identity cards, 907 children registered and obtained birth certificates, 745 individuals obtained family booklets, and 473 individuals succeeded in documenting their marriage events and received marriage certificates.

As of end of May 2019, UNHCR partners SARC and the Syria Trust provided legal assistance to a total of 120,323 displaced persons, returnees and host community members on issues related mainly to documentation of civil events, authentication of customary marriages, birth registrations, divorce authentication in the context of response to gender-based violence incidents, preserving rights of women and children, property documentation, lease contracts and inheritance. The legal services were provided to 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 on various legal matters.

In May, UNHCR and its partners identified and supported 674 (2,714 January – May) survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Furthermore, during May, 1,006 (3,285 January – May) awareness sessions were conducted for 22,600 (73,657 January – May) individuals.

In May, 848 (3,391 January – May) awareness-raising sessions on child protection topics were organized at UNHCR's community centres, shelters, child-friendly spaces and schools addressing children, caregivers and community members. Through these interventions, children with protection risks were identified by the displaced persons and host communities. UNHCR also identified and assisted in May 1,164 (4,876 January – May) children at risk. The main protection risks 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 May, UNHCR along with its partners and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MoE) established three (164 January – May) community-based child protection structures across the country namely children clubs and child welfare committees. Additionally, during May 19,653 (87,580 January – May) 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, through which 160 (671 January – May) 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 116 children were assisted during May, bringing the total number of children who benefitted from this assistance since the beginning of the year to 650 children.

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. In May, a total of 1,235 individuals received Psycho-Social Support (PSS) services through community centres and outreach volunteers, out of which 32 cases were referred to specialized mental health services. As of end of May, 5,882 individuals received PSS services, out of whom 366 were referred to specialized services. Moreover, a total of 32,756 individuals participated in 1,733 social and recreational events including through awareness raising sessions. As of end of May, 145,967 individuals participated in 7,000 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 9,553 (14,708 January – May) vulnerable individuals in order to help them meet their various basic needs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

UNHCR is in the process of relocating a selected number of community centres based on a protection needs' assessment in order to operate in underserved areas and/or locations receiving displaced and refugee returnees. The decisions of relocating the centres are made based on thorough assessments conducted by UNHCR and its partners in the field.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

UNHCR provided 91,719 individuals with at least one core relief and supplementary item during May 2019, bringing the overall individuals who received assistance since the beginning of the year to 760,881 individuals.

UNHCR continued to provide life-saving and life-sustaining impact solutions. In May, 1,709 individuals /342 families in different governorates benefited from shelter assistance such as the distribution and installation of shelter kits and tents along with the provision of technical assistance. UNHCR upgraded the infrastructure capacity and distributed 1,230 tents in the camps in North East Syria in May. Furthermore, UNHCR's respective partners are conducting the required technical assessments and submitting the official approvals in order to start with the implementation of other projects as per UNHCR's shelter plan.

As of end of May, 73,001 individuals /14,600 families benefited from shelter and infrastructure assistance through the distribution of 185 shelter kits in Dar'a, As- Sweida and Homs, in addition to the distribution of 10,869 tents in various camps in North East Syria, along with 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.



UNHCR conducted a mission with its partners Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI) & SARC to Deir Khabieh in Rural Damascus, where thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees returned to their homes. During the visit, UNHCR Representative Mr. Ayaki Ito met the families receiving shelter support through PUI. In Deir Khabieh, the UN along with INGOs and NGOs are providing assistance in health, shelter, WASH and other services through the area-based support programme.



LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

In May, UNHCR distributed livelihoods toolkits to 495 persons of concern. The toolkits were blacksmith, sewing, computer maintenance, and female hairdressing kits. UNHCR also supported 207 individuals with entrepreneurship/ business trainings carried out in seven governorates, of whom 27 have so far received an award to enable them to establish or operate a small business.



Miral is a 30-year old young woman, who struggled for eight years after her displacement with her family from rural Homs. She joined an energy vocational training implemented by UNHCR partner GOPA in Tartous. After learning new skills and enhancing her knowledge for a three-month period, Miral, along with other participants, will be able to establish her own project in photovoltaic energy and solar water heaters, in order to become a breadwinner for the family. "At first, I found it hard to integrate and be a part of a different culture, but now, not only I have new friends, but I'm also learning new skills to create my own career and start my own business" said Miral.

As of end of May, 1,624 persons of concern in ten governorates received livelihoods assistance. The toolkits included blacksmith, computer maintenance, sewing, carpentry, female hairdressing and mobile maintenance kits. Additionally, 20 individuals benefited from UNHCR's vocational training course which took place in Rural Damascus. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR supported a total of 299 individuals with entrepreneurship/ business trainings in seven governorates.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

In May, UNHCR assisted 24,310 (161,581 January – May) displaced persons with Primary Health Care (PHC) services through 13 PHC clinics. 293 (951 January – May) displaced persons benefited from emergency and life-saving referrals in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Hama governorates. Moreover, a total of 5,446 (25,026 January – May) individuals were reached by the community-based health activities through the health points in the community centres: 2,159 (11,655 January – May) individuals received basic medical consultation in the clinics of the health points and 3,287 (13371 January – May)

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 May, UNHCR assisted a total of 3,644 refugee households (11,304 individuals) with MPCGs. As of end of May, UNHCR assisted a total of 4,079 refugee households (12,528 individuals) with MPCGs, and 1,011 asylum-seeker households (5,331 individuals) with C4F. UNHCR also provided cash-related counselling to 1,601 families, as well as hotline support to 1,168 families.

During May, the case of one refugee was submitted to Sweden, bringing the total submissions, as of end of May 2019, to 118 cases submitted for resettlement consideration to Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, as of end of May 2019, UNHCR Syria facilitated the departure on resettlement of 113 refugees to Sweden and the United Kingdom, and of 33 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.

Furthermore, in May, UNHCR Syria continued working on exploring Family Reunification opportunities for refugees who have children in third countries as part of the Complementary Pathways for Admission of refugees in third countries. Out of the 380 cases that were identified, 63 cases were contacted by UNHCR to assess any action that could be undertaken by the office, if any, to assist in the family reunification process. Additionally, UNHCR Syria continued to follow up on the cases of the refugees who have spouses residing in third countries.

Furthermore, in May, 62 individuals/28 families underwent interviews by UNHCR at different stages and decisions were submitted for 74 individuals/36 families. Reopening file reviews were undertaken for 14 individuals/8 cases. As of end of May, 289 individuals/150 families underwent interviews by UNHCR at different stages and decisions were submitted for 224 individuals/109 families. Reviews were undertaken for 155 individuals/85 families, of which 58 individuals/23 families were recognized as refugees, and 23 individuals/16 families were rejected.

During May, UNHCR through the education dedicated hotline, provided information to 15 (94 January – May) 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. Additionally, 472 refugee and asylum-seeker children benefited 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 refugee communities of Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, Chad, Guinea and Eritrea continued to support their communities in four governorates; Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Al-Hasakeh.

In May, 24 (48 January – May) new SGBV survivors were identified and assisted with the needed services, such as PSS, health care, legal aid and material assistance. Some were provided with urgent financial grants due to their vulnerability and poor living conditions.

Additionally, 17 (47 January – May) 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 355 (1,005 January – May) persons of concern.

Furthermore, during May, a total of 4,035 (20,399 January – May) 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 217 (1,246 January – May) 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 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 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 May, UNHCR field teams conducted over 79 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 and lack of adequate shelter, lack of livelihood opportunities and lack of civil status documentation.

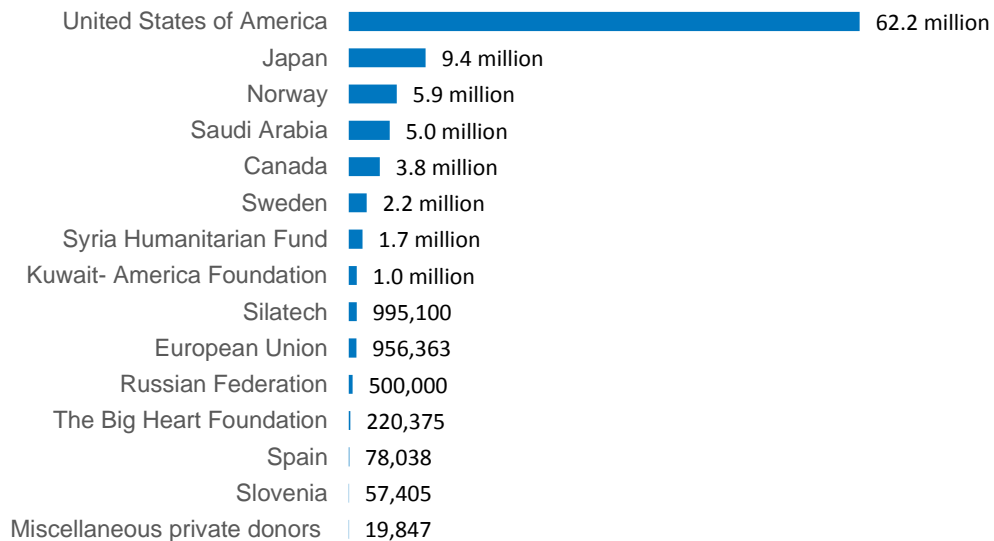
Since January, 4,879 Syrian refugees reportedly returned through group organized returns facilitated by the Government of Jordan and Directorate of General Security of Lebanon. The follow up assessments conducted with these returnees since December 2018 to understand their needs and refer them to local 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.

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\$ 96,467,117 million**.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 56.6 million | Private donors Australia 3.8 million | Sweden 3.3 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

Toloe Masori,
 Reporting Officer Syria, masori@unhcr.org

LINKS

www.unhcr.org/sy
<https://twitter.com/UNHCRinSYRIA/status/1118150319341436928>

***** As of 29 May 2019, please find attached in Annex more details.

Annexes

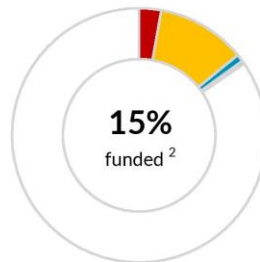
Annex 1

Syrian Arab Republic Funding Update – as of 29 May 2019.

Annex 2

UNHCR main activities as of end of May 2019

\$624.4 million

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2019 ¹

**SYRIAN ARAB
REPUBLIC**

as of 29 May 2019


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	2,464,435	5,900,396	(4,947,677)	(905,848)	2,511,306
Total	2,464,435	5,900,396	70,681,089	17,421,197	96,467,117

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 | 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 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:

1. The financial requirements for Syrian Arab Republic include requirements for the Iraq Situation Response and the Syria Situation Response.

2. 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.

3. Contributions to Syrian Arab Republic are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.

4. 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.

5. 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.

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