

30 September 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.5 / 5	16.5 million	10.3 million	\$3.19 billion	18.2%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HRP 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (HRP 2025)	Required to reach the target (HRP 2025)	Of the required funding secured (HRP 2025)
174 MSEK	27,2 MSEK	22,1 MSEK	223,3 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

Following 14 years of conflict Syrian experienced a change of regime on the 8th December 2024. It was a violent overthrow of government and strife still occurs in localized places. The regime change has allowed freedom of movement within almost all of Syria, previously divided in 3 contexts. One no longer talks of NWS; NES and GoS areas, but rather north, south, central, east and west. Humanitarian actors can move freely in most of the country and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from neighboring countries has begun, although so far not as fast as expected.

The situation in Syria is highly dynamic, with continued conflict in parts of the country, as well as the aftermath of a civil war leaving 500,000 people killed and 13 million people displaced within and outside of Syria. Multiple crises abound, with conflict, regional instability, food insecurity, climate change including drought, water shortages, all augmented by an economic crisis. The number of people in need of life-saving assistance has surged to an unprecedented 16.5 million people in 2025.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Humanitarian needs continue to grow in Syria despite the change of regime. While large scale displacements of people no longer occur, violent local flare-ups lead to internal displacements and more refugees in Lebanon. In addition, IDPs remaining in camps are now often faced with diminishing or the complete lack of basic services, conversely areas of return are still lacking basic services, leaving IDPs as well as returnees with continued humanitarian needs. This is compounded by existing protracted humanitarian needs in all sectors following the civil war. The most vulnerable continue to be children, elderly, people with disabilities, and particularly women and young girls.

In 2025, 90 per cent of the population live in poverty, with 16.3 million people food insecure. The health system is vulnerable and inadequate, with only 50 per cent of the system considered functional, a percentage that is likely to increase as humanitarian funding is decreasing drastically following the USAID funding cuts early 2025, as well as the general drawdown of funding from donors globally. More than 16.3 million people need protection assistance.

Severe protection risks include minority persecution, sexual- and gender-based violence (GBV), heavy contamination by mines and unexploded ordnances, a lack of basic services, as well as lack of access to civil documentation and housing, land and property (HLP) rights. The crisis continues to have a gendered impact, with an increase of female-headed households and women and adolescent girls experiencing harmful and discriminatory gender norms, including gender-based violence. Children remain exposed to a number of threats and grave violations of their rights, such as forced early marriages, sexual violence and child labour. Young boys and men run a particularly high risk of recruitment into armed groups and engaging in the drug trade. Across Syria, Explosive Ordnance (EO) incidents have become a daily reality as former frontlines become accessible, with children and men most often the victims. Education is a challenge, with over 2 million children out of school and 7,000 schools damaged. Climate change is linked to worsening natural hazards such as harsh winters, wildfires, and the worst drought in 36 years, contributing to reduced livelihoods opportunities.

Most IDP camps can be found in northern and northwest Syria, hosting around 1.4 million IDPs. In addition the total number of IDPs is still alarming at 7.1 million people. While many have returned (to date approx. 1.8 million), over 1,700 IDP camps still remain. Another over five million IDPs live outside of camps, most still needing humanitarian assistance. The underfunded humanitarian response is severely impacting food security, health and GBV services while many critical services are under threat of closing. Many IDPs are eager to return home, however, key barriers to return such as damaged or destroyed homes, inadequate services, unexploded ordnances and HLP issues remain. Ongoing hostilities continue in the northeast impacting essential services, and new conflict flare-ups have taken place in the southern parts of the country. Displacements and restrictions of access to humanitarian aid continue, leaving millions in need of basic services and livelihoods.

The ongoing negotiations to integrate the Syrian Democratic Forces into the transitional government's military forces have an uncertain impact on ongoing hostilities with the Syrian National Army. Despite improved security in many regions, the conflict in Tartous and Lattakia in March 2025 between groups loyal to the former regime and new regime forces, resulted in 1,500 civilian deaths and large-scale displacement including into Lebanon, mostly of Alawites and a few other minorities. Recent armed hostilities and clashes in As-Sweida Governorate, southern Syria, caused deaths among civilians and large-scale internal displacement. This has required adding another response to an already gravely underfunded response with funding levels at approximately 18 per cent of the HRP.

Since the 8th of December 2024 UNHCR has registered 1,027,887 returnees from other countries and approximately 1.9 million IDPs have left the camps. Until September 2025, many whom have returned find their houses completely destroyed or inhabited by others, leading people to return to IDP camps or settling nearby their original homes. In areas with many returns the additional strain on basic services and livelihoods is stretching coping capacities to the limit and increasing the need for life-saving humanitarian support. Syrian refugees remain among those most vulnerable in neighbouring countries, increasingly perceived by host populations as competing for jobs and scarce public resources. While UNHCR assesses that conditions for returns to Syria in line with international principles are not yet in place, Syrian refugees experience increased pressure from host countries to return. To facilitate a return Türkiye is allowing “go-and-see” visits for family members without this impacting on visitors ability to return to their country of refuge. In Lebanon, the government has temporarily waived the border fees for returning Syrians, which means that at the moment people have the ability to go backwards and forward to Lebanon.

3. The humanitarian response

The UN-led humanitarian coordination used to be an adaptation of the standard ‘country’ coordination model, adjusted to respond to three sub-contexts. The UN has now concluded a transition to merge the three sub-contexts into one response, with a now more traditional humanitarian architecture in Syria with seven UN-hubs across Syria. The transition has also meant the merger of the two humanitarian funds, Syrian Humanitarian Fund and Syria Cross Border Humanitarian Fund. At the moment, the RC/HC position is vacant at a critical juncture in time, when relationships with the new transitional regime should be built to support a transition to more development-led initiatives.

In December 2024, a summary of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) Strategic Objectives for 2024-2025 was presented. Due to the new circumstances with a new interim government, and sharp reduction of funds, the HRP summary has been extended to December 2025. The current HRP summary was adjusted to show people in need, people targeted and people *critically targeted* based on the situation in December 2024. Even with this reduction of people targeted, the HRP continues to be severely underfunded at only 18 per cent as of September 2025. The reduction in US funding, but also a reduction of funding from some other large donors, creates

an even more challenging funding environment. It has severely impacted organizations and sectors in North-East Syria, particularly for services related to IDPs in and outside of camps, disrupting operations and leaving major gaps in coordination and information management. Another critical outcome of the funding cuts has been the disappearance of quite a few smaller local NGOs, including women-led organisations.

While bureaucratic constraints have decreased somewhat with the interim government, and with more access across Syria, the operational environment remains challenging. Restrictions on humanitarian access continue. Concerns around security, violations of international humanitarian law, unexploded ordnance and cases of aid interference result in various constraints and delays in the humanitarian response. While many sanctions have been lifted or temporarily waived, there are still major constraints remaining for economic recovery and reconstruction of the country.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

The protractedness of the Syrian crisis and reduced funding require new ways of working that still ensures that the most severe needs remain prioritised. Against this backdrop, Sida will continue to prioritise organisations that have the presence and capacity to meet the most urgent unaddressed humanitarian needs through aid modalities that enable, when and where possible, a sustainable humanitarian impact. Area-based approaches, multi-sector programming and cash modalities are considered by Sida to be appropriate approaches.

Geographical coverage, based on the severity and scope of needs and the ability to respond in underserved and hard-to-reach areas remains a priority factor for partner selection. To address the unmet protection needs, any partner initiative should clearly indicate the integration and/or direct protection activities, preferably working with proactive protection and reduction of risk. Partners must demonstrate how their work aligns with the Centrality of Protection Strategy, and how protection is mainstreamed in programming. To address the increasing tensions between returnees and people living in places of return, conflict sensitivity and social cohesion are also considered core issues to be included in all future interventions.

In September, Sida made an end of year allocation focused specifically on crises with very acute needs and severe underfunding. In this allocation, an additional 25 MSEK was allocated to Syria. This funding has been directed towards meeting the growing needs related to food insecurity. Food insecurity is on the rise as a result of 13 years of civil war which has left Syria with little possibilities for livelihoods in the face of the widespread destruction of arable land, infrastructure and industries. This is further compacted by a deep economic crisis, drought, and a dwindling humanitarian response which has made hard prioritisations in nutrition in 2025. Based on the current situation funding has been divided between WFP and FAO. WFP was selected to ensure immediate in-kind and cash distribution to alleviate food insecurity. FAO to support livestock holders to support them through a harsh winter following the drought, to halt

further livestock losses, which in turn reduce access to animal protein, and therefore contributes to a worsening of the already fragile food and nutrition security situation.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
ACF	Food Security, Health, Nutrition, WASH	8,000,000
IRC	Protection, Food Security, Health	9,000,000
Islamic Relief	Health	20,000,000 ¹
NRC	Education, WASH, FSL, Shelter, Protection	50,000,000 ²
Save the Children	Education, Child Protection	9,000,000
Swedish Red Cross	Health, WASH	20,000,000 ³
Oxfam incl. INGO coordination	WASH, FSL, Protection, Gender	10,000,000
SCHF	Multi-sector	17,000,000
SHF	Multi-sector	17,000,000
UNICEF	Child Protection, Education, Health, Nutrition, WASH	14,000,000
TOTAL		174,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2025 (SEK)		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ⁽¹⁾	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
FAO	8,000,000	8,000,000
OCHA Field Coordination ⁴	2,960,000	-
Save the Children	3,210,000	-
Swedish Red Cross	2,000,000	-
Oxfam	5,000,000	-
WFP	-	2,240,854 ⁵ + 17,000,000 ⁶

¹ Already committed in 2023.

² Already committed in 2023.

³ Already committed in 2023.

⁽¹⁾ Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

⁴ Sida provides flexible funding to OCHA's field coordination, and this preliminary allocation is therefore subject to change.

PUI	972,945	-
TOTAL	22,142,945	27,240,854

ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.