

1. Summaryⁱ

5	16.5 million	143 MSEK	0 MSEK	0 MSEK	143 MSEK
Humanitarian crisis ranking (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱ	Number of people with humanitarian needs (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱⁱ	Initial allocation for 2026	Additional allocation in 2026	Flexible funding in 2026	Total Sida funding in 2026

Following 15 years of conflict, Syria experienced a swift regime change on the 8th December 2024, when the Assad-regime was violently overthrown. Pockets of fighting still occur across the country. The regime change has allowed freedom of movement throughout Syria, which was previously divided in three geographical areas; North-West of Syria (NWS), North-East of Syria (NES) and Government of Syria (GoS), each of which were controlled by different parties. The former humanitarian architecture known as Whole of Syria (WoS) comprising these areas is now dismantled. Although still unpredictable, humanitarian access has improved considerably since the change of regime, and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from neighbouring countries has begun, albeit at a relatively slow pace. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has assessed that the conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified returns are not yet in place, given the situation on the ground in this war-torn country.¹ The conditions for return will not improve substantially as long as conflict is on-going and the general lack of basic services and livelihoods opportunities are left unaddressed.

The situation in Syria is highly dynamic, with continued conflict in parts of the country in the aftermath of the civil war leaving 500,000 people killed, while 13 million people are displaced within and outside of Syria. At the end of November 2025, UNHCR estimates that there are some 1.9 million IDPs in the country and that over 1.2 million Syrian refugees have returned to their areas of origin or other locations across Syria² including from Lebanon due to on-going hostilities. In addition, there are multiple crisis exacerbated by the conflict such as regional instability, food insecurity, climate change including drought and water shortages, all further impacted by an

¹ UNHCR, [UNHCR Position on Returns to the Syrian Arab Republic](#), December 2024 (accessed 2025-12-05).

² UNHCR, [Syria situation: Crisis Regional Flash Update #54 | UNHCR](#), November 2025 (accessed 2025-12-05).

economic crisis. The number of people in need of life-saving assistance has surged to a staggering 16.5 million people in 2026, according to the 2026 HNRP.³

Sida will allocate an initial amount of SEK 143 million in 2026. Partner selection in 2026 has been informed and guided by principles such as the ability to reach those most in need of humanitarian assistance and partners' capacity to integrate centrality of protection and mainstream gender considerations. In addition, partners with a strong approach to conflict sensitivity, including social cohesion, have been prioritised and selected to contribute to peaceful coexistence in areas which have seen a high return of refugees and IDPs.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

There are 16.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance across Syria in basically all locations of the country. However, only 10.3 million people are targeted in 2026 in locations with the most severe humanitarian and protection needs. Humanitarian needs continue to grow in Syria despite the change of regime, large scale displacements of people are scarce, but violent local flare-ups lead to internal displacements and people to seek refuge in Lebanon. In addition, IDPs who remain in camps are now often faced with diminishing or a complete lack of basic services, conversely areas of return are still lacking basic services and livelihood opportunities, 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. 14.6 million people are food insecure, out of whom 9.1 million people are classified as acutely food insecure, 14.4 million people are in need of access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and 6.4 million children are in need of nutrition.⁴

452 health facilities that previously received formal support are now severely affected by funding cuts and face imminent closure, putting over 5 million people at risk of losing access to critical medical care and life-saving services. After several years of conflict needs related to mental health- and psychosocial support (MHPSS) are extensive among large parts of the population after the many years of conflict.⁵ Over 2 million children are out of school and 7,000 schools damaged. Existing crises are further exacerbated by climate change which is linked to worsening natural hazards such as harsh winters, wildfires, and the worst drought in 36 years, contributing to reduced livelihoods opportunities.⁶

Severe protection risks include minority persecution, sexual- and gender-based violence (GBV), heavy contamination by mines and unexploded ordnances (EO), a lack of basic services, as well as lack of access to civil documentation and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights. The crisis

³ OCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Response Priorities \(January to December 2025\) | OCHA](#), July 2025 (accessed 2025-12-08).

⁴ OCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Response Priorities \(January to December 2025\) | OCHA](#), July 2025 (accessed 2025-12-11).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

continues to have a gendered impact, disproportionate impacts on female-headed households, women and adolescent girls who face harmful and discriminatory gender norms and practices. Children remain particularly 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 are particularly at high risk of recruitment into armed groups and recruitment to the drug trade. Across Syria, EO incidents have become a daily reality as former frontlines become accessible and free movement increases particularly with children and men falling victim. From December 2024 to November 2025, a staggering number of 1,592 people were killed and 1,007 injured in EO-related incidents.⁷

As a result of the escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, more than 134,000 people, mainly Syrian returnees, has crossed the border from Lebanon to Syria since 2 March.⁸ This figure is expected to continue to increase as long as hostilities are on-going in Lebanon.

3. The humanitarian response

The 2026 HNRP is severely underfunded at only 3.4 per cent as of March 2026.⁹ Only 10.3 million people are targeted in 2026 for an estimated cost of USD 3.19 billion. This includes people in need of humanitarian assistance in areas in severity category 3, 4 and 5, as well as areas with high returns of IDPs and refugees.¹⁰

10.3 million	\$3.2 billion	3.4%
People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2026)	Required to reach the target (HNRP 2026)	Of the funding secured (HNRP 2026)

As a result of dismantling the WoS-structure, there are now seven UN-hubs across Syria. At the same time the process towards the humanitarian reset is ongoing, which in several aspects will most likely lead to substantial changes in 2026 including reduction of UN-staff and merger of sectors. Further, the larger UN agencies have suffered large blows due to reduced levels of funding. The transition has also brought with it the merger of the two humanitarian funds, Syrian Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF). Changes have also been made to the country's humanitarian coordination, as of December 2025, there is a temporary solution with the appointment of an experienced interim Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) to Damascus. Further, the new Syria NGO Forum, gathering both INGOs and NGOs, is the result of a merging process which took place in 2025 where a number of NGO forums in

⁷ Mine Action AoR, [Unprecedented threat from explosive ordnance across Syria – MA AoR Situation Update No.1 \(December 2024-January 2025\) - Syrian Arab Republic | ReliefWeb](#), February 2025 (accessed 2025-12-11).

⁸ OCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Overview Issue No. 4 | January - February 2026 - Syrian Arab Republic | ReliefWeb](#), March 2026 (accessed: 2026-03-20)

⁹ FTS, [Syrian Arab Republic 2026 | Financial Tracking Service](#), March 2026 (accessed 2026-03-20).

¹⁰ OCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Response Priorities \(January to December 2025\) | OCHA](#), July 2025 (accessed 2025-12-11).

different parts of Syria, merged their work. This has strengthened efficiency and coordination, representation, and collective action of NGOs operating across Syria.

The specific reduction of US funding, coupled with a general reduction of funding from other large donors, creates an increasingly challenging funding environment. It has severely impacted organisations and sectors country-wide and particularly in north-East Syria, especially 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 as well as grass roots organisations.

Bureaucratic constraints have decreased somewhat under the interim government, leading to improved access across Syria. However, the operational environment remains challenging and restrictions on humanitarian access still exist.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

The protractedness of the Syrian crisis and reduced funding require new ways of working that still ensure that the most severe needs remain prioritised. Against this backdrop, Sida will continue to prioritise organisations that have a presence and capacity to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs through aid modalities that enable, when and where possible, a sustainable humanitarian impact. Sida considers area-based, integrated multi-sector programming and cash modalities the most 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 for partner selection. To address the unmet protection needs including gender inequality needs, partners should consider direct implementation of protection activities, while simultaneously working with proactive protection and the reduction of risks. Partners must demonstrate how their work aligns with the Centrality of Protection Strategy, and how protection, including gender, is mainstreamed in programming. To address the increasing tensions between returnees and people living in places of return as well as the risks of sectarian violence, conflict sensitivity and social cohesion are also considered core issues to be included in all future interventions. Engagement with local organisations is also a priority, foremost through the SHF, due to its unique position in terms of advancing locally led humanitarian action.

Syria is entering a new phase with the need to invest in recovery, reconstruction and development. There is an opportunity to secure more long-term investments for humanitarian actors, in close collaboration with the development side to ensure synergies. One example is the need to restore agricultural production to decrease the dependency on humanitarian assistance. Another example is WASH activities where there are now more conducive conditions to build resilience at community level, instead of using water trucking. In areas of relatively stability across Syria, this way of working has been applied in the past.

Sida will provide support based on the Programme-Based Approach (PBA) to CSO partners ensuring to provide maximum flexibility in line with Grand Bargain (GB) commitments, as well as unearmarked funding to UN partners.

PARTNER	INITIAL ALLOCATION
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	15,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	15,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	30,000,000
Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF)	42,000,000
Syria NGO Forum (SNF)	1,000,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	20,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	20,000,000
TOTAL	143,000,000

ⁱ The 2026 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.

ⁱⁱ Sida's initial allocation analysis consists of three dimensions that are assessed for each crisis-affected country: 1) magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs 2) capacity of the humanitarian system to respond to needs and 3) capacity of the crisis-affected country to respond to needs. The qualitative and quantitative analysis produces an index scoring for each country, where the highest ranked country is found to have the greatest proportion of unmet severe humanitarian needs globally, based on available data. Sida's initial allocation for 2026 includes a total of 25 countries with the highest scores. For more information please see Initial Allocation Methodology.

ⁱⁱⁱ The number of people with humanitarian needs according to Sida's allocation analysis is based on the most inclusive estimate of humanitarian needs that is available from recent sources and supported by triangulation. For Syria, the selected source is GHO 2026.