

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING GAPS

As identified for the period July - October 2020

ISSUED JUNE 2020

This product aims to provide insights into humanitarian funding gaps as projected over the next four months – July to October 2020 – based on programmatic priorities and current funding levels by sector, as well as the status of commodity pipelines from selected UN agencies. Achieving the objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and COVID-19 plan in full will require comprehensive funding; only immediate and critical gaps are described in detail here. Given the dynamic context, donors are urged to program funds in an unearmarked and flexible manner.

Key Messages

- Syria remains one of the largest and most complex humanitarian emergencies in the world today. Overall, an estimated **11.1 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance in 2020**, including 4.7 million people in acute need. Economic shocks coupled with the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19 stand to further increase the number of people in need during the remainder of 2020 and beyond.
- As of 29 June 2020, **30.6 per cent or US\$1.05 billion of the US\$3.43 billion required under the 2020 HRP was funded** according to the Financial Tracking System (FTS)¹. Moreover, only **22.1 per cent or US\$84.9 million of the additional US\$384 million requirements for the COVID-19 response was funded**.
- Funding shortfalls continue to place a major constraint on response efforts, with partners having to divert resources from existing humanitarian programmes to meet sudden onset needs, including those related to COVID-19. **US\$1.85 billion is urgently needed over the course of the next four months to sustain critical levels of the HRP and COVID-19 response, including US\$477 million to avoid UN pipeline breaks.**
- The COVID-19 outbreak and its broad consequences have resulted in temporary delay or adjustments of humanitarian programmes. The volatility of the Syrian Pound is impacting direct implementation and local procurement of goods and services, the prices of commodities and the overall cost of providing humanitarian assistance are expected to continue to increase as a result. **Additional support and timely flexibility from donors regarding existing and future funding agreements are needed to enable swift and efficient adjustments to continue to meet people's needs.**
- **Humanitarian partners must be able to make full and complementary use of different response modalities, including from 'within Syria'** (areas accessed from territory controlled by the Government of Syria, including large areas of north-east Syria, not under Government control), **and cross-border from neighbouring countries**, to access all populations in need across Syria and provide assistance and services. Cross-border pre-positioning exercises for north-west Syria have accelerated funding consumption, necessitating replenishment of cash flows.
- **Disproportionate funding to some sectors at the expense of others compromises the ability of humanitarian partners to provide a comprehensive response** to multi-faceted needs in a highly complex operating environment.

1. OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) which records all humanitarian contributions, (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. FTS reflects funding flows received against the HRP and the Covid-19 response as reported by donors and/or partners. FTS relies on timely reporting of funding provided and/or received in order to ensure that publicly displayed funding levels are as up to date as possible. <http://fts.unocha.org>

The 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), developed by the United Nations on behalf of the humanitarian community working in Syria, are being consulted with the Government of Syria in accordance with GA/RES/46/182 and will be circulated as soon as consultations are completed. Figures and findings in this document draw from independent analysis of the United Nations and its humanitarian partners, based on information available to them.

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- The Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund and the Syria Humanitarian Fund have only US\$0 and US\$17.3 million available respectively, as of 21 June. These are the most flexible, quickest mechanisms for funding – especially in a dynamic environment such as Syria. Donors are encouraged to urgently provide additional funding through the country-based pooled funds.
- Donors are encouraged to provide direct funding to NGOs operating cross-border in north-east Syria; the UN does not channel funding to these partners since the UN Security Council passed its Resolution 2504.
- While there was a period of relative calm in north-west Syria, the emergency response for some 840,000 people who remain displaced in north-west Syria following escalations of hostilities between December 2019 and early March 2020 is ongoing. The threat of renewed violence will further strain response capacity.

Key figures

PEOPLE IN NEED



11.1 Million People in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020

4.7 Million People in acute need

PEOPLE TARGETED FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN 2020



9.8 Million Direct Assistance

11.4 Million Service Delivery

TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING GAPS (JULY TO OCTOBER 2020)



\$1.6 Billion Humanitarian Response Plan

\$238 Million COVID-19 response

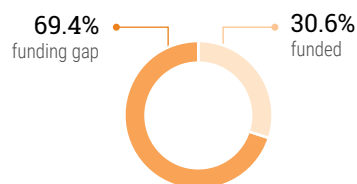
Including

\$477 Million to sustain current levels of UN response and avoid pipeline breaks

2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

Total requirements (US\$)

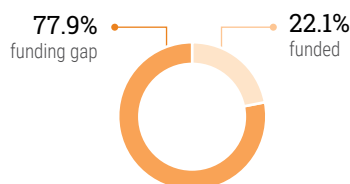
\$3.43 Billion



ADDITIONAL COVID19- RESPONSE

Total requirements (US\$)

\$384 Million



Displacement

6.7M

Protracted internally displaced persons (IDPs)

1.47M

Population movements (January to May 2020)

1.4M

IDPs in last resort sites

5.5M

Registered refugees in neighbouring countries²



Returns

195K

Spontaneous IDP returnees (January to April 2020)

96K

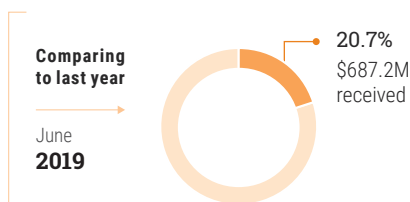
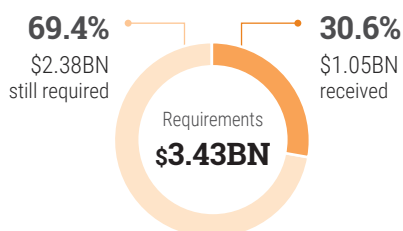
Self-organized refugee returnees in 2019

2. Source: UNHCR, as of 17 June 2020 https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

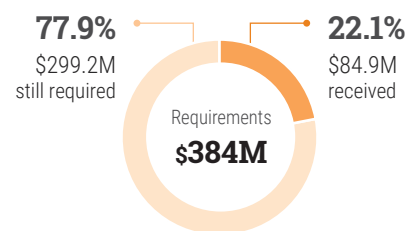
Funding by sector

Funding status as of 29 June 2020

Humanitarian Response Plan 2020



Additional COVID-19 Response



2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

SECTOR	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)		FUNDING (US\$)		REQUIREMENTS (US\$)		FUNDING (US\$)	
	Requirements	Funding	Requirements	Funding	Requirements	Funding	Requirements	Funding
Protection	184.3 M	36.4 M	20%					
Protection: Child Protection	75.7 M	2.6 M	3%		12.8 M	4.2 M	33%	
Protection: Gender-Based Violence	64.4 M	1.2 M	2%					
Protection: Mine Action	52.6 M	3.8 M	7%					
Camp Coordination and Camp Management	25 M	2.2 M	9%		8.1 M	0	0%	
Early Recovery and Livelihoods	174.4 M	11.1 M	6%		20.7 M	7.7 M	37%	
Education	264.4 M	55.4 M	21%		27.4 M	0	0%	
Food Security and Agriculture	1.1 BN	314.8 M	28%		37.8 M	0.4 M	1%	
Health	443.2 M	66.5 M	15%		158 M	32.4 M	21%	
Nutrition	79.3 M	6.7 M	8%		10.9 M	0	0%	
Shelter and Non-Food Items	569.9 M	43 M	8%		33.2 M	0	0%	
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	314.4 M	33.9 M	11%		69.9 M	16.2 M	23%	
Logistics	11.8 M	2.4 M	20%		0.4 M	0	0%	
Emergency Telecommunications	0.9 M	-	0%		-	-		
Coordination and Common Services	52.5 M	8.9 M	17%		-	-		
Multi-sector/sector not specified	-	459.2 M			5.1 M	23.9 M		
Total	3.43 BN	1.05 BN			384.2 M	84.9 M		

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Funding Requirements for Agency Commodity Pipelines³

United Nations agencies reported critical funding gaps amounting to US\$477 million to sustain current levels of response and avoid pipeline breaks between July and October 2020. Partners reported they will face pipeline breaks without immediate replenishment of commodities/resources.

A breakdown of critical funding gaps per agency is detailed below:⁴

ORGANIZATION		IN HAND	GAP		IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS (MILLION US\$)
UN World Food Programme (WFP)	General Food Assistance, Ready to Eat Rations, Livelihoods and Nutrition activities	Funding required to sustain current level of response until December 2020, including monthly assistance to some 4.8 million people. ⁵			US\$200,000,000
	General Food Assistance	Additional funding required to increase the number of people reached with monthly food assistance (the 1.4 million people identified as newly food insecure)			US\$88,000,000
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Core Relief Items (CRI) kits	187,000 kits	115,500 kits		US\$50,753,159
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Sodium Hypochlorite (Metric Ton)	1,460 MT	2,500 MT		US\$1,250,000
	Family hygiene kits	98,000 kits	70,000 kits		US\$3,500,000
	Education kits and supplies ⁶	Funding required to sustain current level of response until end of October 2020			US\$9,800,000
	Nutrition items ⁷	374,000 items	619,000 items		US\$1,000,000

3. Indicative as of 9 June. Immediate funding requirements refer to critical gaps related to commodities that should be addressed now. Agency and sector requirements until the end of 2020 may be higher.

4. All critical funding gaps of selected UN agencies listed in this table are for the four month period July to October 2020, with the exception of WFP (July to December 2020).

5. WFP's Syria operation is currently facing a funding crunch of USD \$200 million this year. Without new funding indications by August 2020, the WFP Country Office will be forced to drastically cut rations as well as the number of people reached with GFA effective October. Overall current lead time is four months to import food into the country.

6. UNICEF educational items and supplies include: school-in-a-box/stationery; recreational kits; ECD kits; tent, rectangular 24m²; tent, rectangular 42m²; tent, light weight, rectangular 72m²; replenishment kit; Arabic teacher's kit; text books; school furniture; and hygiene materials for schools.

7. UNICEF nutrition items include: ready to use therapeutic food, F75 therapeutic milk formula, F100 therapeutic milk formula, high energy biscuits, fortified food, lipid-based nutrient supplements, micronutrient powders, and micronutrient tablets.

Humanitarian Funding Gaps

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June 2020

ORGANIZATION		IN HAND	GAP		IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS (MILLION US\$)
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Essential medication	7,384,127 treatment courses	2,922,873 treatment courses		US\$7,500,000
	Trauma/surgical kits	51,710 treatment courses	33,290 treatment courses		US\$1,200,000
	Medical equipment	180 pieces	600 pieces		US\$8,000,000
	COVID-19 supplies	13,739,257 US\$	15,679,084 US\$		US\$15,679,084
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	NFI kits	3,000 kits	19,000 kits		US\$3,500,000
	Family tents	9,500 tents	3,250 tents		US\$1,950,000
	Camp infrastructure	-	-		US\$5,000,000
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Wheat seeds	4,000 MT	34,000 MT		US\$17,600,000
	High quality wheat seeds	0 MT	1,200 MT		US\$1,000,000
	Vegetable and irrigation kits	10 MT	890 MT		US\$10,000,000
	Vegetable kits	0 MT	432 MT		US\$4,800,000
	Small ruminant	0 heads	30,000 heads		US\$13,000,000
	Small ruminant feed	1,230 MT	9,770 MT		US\$8,000,000
	Poultry	0 chicks	825,000 chicks		US\$14,500,000
	Poultry feed	0 MT	8,000 MT		US\$10,000,000
	Ruminants vaccines	680,000 doses	2,720,000 doses		US\$10,000,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Dignity kits	341,300 kits	210,000 kits		US\$2,535,925
	Reproductive health kits	326 kits	326 kits		US\$188,996

Sector Priorities

Protection



HRP

Funding Gaps (July-October 2020)

\$301.0M

Key issues and critical activities:

- The Protection Sector and the Child Protection, Mine Action and Gender-Based Violence Areas of Responsibility appealed for approximately US\$377 million under the 2020 Syria HRP. As of 29 June 2020, the sector is funded at only 11.7 per cent⁸ leaving a gap of almost US\$333 million.
- The Protection sector and its Area of Responsibility require flexible and sustained funding to (i) maintain regular protection activities, (ii) scale up response in underserved communities and areas with new displacements and returns (iii) respond to needs in emergency situations in the north-west and north-east including in areas of shifting control (iv) change modality (mobile/static), and (v) accommodate changes in humanitarian access and resulting gaps in services.
- Donor limitations that restrict funding for activities for specific groups of people or based on the nature of activities are resulting in a critical gaps in relation to vital protection services (such as civil documentation, and assistance to families associated with former ISIS fighters).
- COVID-19 prevention measures previously in place have disrupted several critical protection services and created new risks primarily around freedom of movement, mental health and psycho-social needs, increased negative coping mechanisms including violence against women and children, with heightened impact on those already vulnerable. To respond to these, the sector requires rapid and flexible funding for the COVID-19 appeal across AoRs.

Mine Action

Key issues and critical activities:

- The scale, severity, and complexity of the explosive hazard threat remains a major protection concern across Syria. While needs are huge, as of 29 June the Mine Action AoR received only 7.2 per cent of the funding needed to implement live-saving mine action interventions.⁹
- COVID-19 preventive and restrictive measures have limited the ability of humanitarian mine action actors to safely reach beneficiaries. Local measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (e.g. movement restrictions, quarantine, separation) equally limit access to basic services, treatment, and rehabilitation for survivors of explosive ordnance incidents and persons with disabilities.
- Loss of employment or income as a result of COVID-19 may force people to adopt risk-taking behaviour patterns to generate income, such as scrap metal collection, truffle picking, and farming in potentially contaminated land.
- Advocating for access is key to ensure comprehensive geographical coverage and continuity of provision of humanitarian mine action activities, while flexible and multiyear funding is paramount to support the scaling up of mine action actor presence and the expansion of specialized and targeted services for persons with disabilities, including survivors of explosive hazards to ensure that no one is left behind.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Key issues and critical activities:

- The GBV AoR is 1.8 per cent funded as of 29 June.¹⁰ GBV services in late 2019 and early 2020 have been severely impacted by funding gaps, limited funds to local organizations, limited flexibility of funds, low prioritization of Protection and GBV AoR in humanitarian allocations, limited funds available for integrated GBV and health (especially sexual and reproductive health) approaches and short funding cycles.
- Simultaneously, emergencies in the north-west, north-east and COVID-19 have resulted in additional response requirements.
- The impact of limited funding includes: (i) GBV specialized services are not available in 94 per cent of communities

8. Source: Financial Tracking System (FTS). According to Protection Sector estimates, 21 per cent of the funding requirements were funded as of 31 March 2020.

9. Source: Financial Tracking System (FTS). According to Protection Sector estimates, 26 per cent of the funding requirements were funded as of 31 March 2020.

10. Source: Financial Tracking System (FTS). According to Protection Sector estimates, 47 per cent of the funding requirements were funded as of 31 March 2020.

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in Syria¹¹, (ii) several GBV projects and women and girls safe spaces (WGSS) in north-west Syria have closed, (iii) limitations in quickly adapting prevention and response approaches to serve women and girls at risk during COVID-19, (iv) GBV partners have to choose between maintaining regular programming or providing emergency response in northern Syria, (v) many communities in southern Syria are under-served, (vi) available dignity kits are not sufficient, (vii) not being able to provide/expand GBV services in areas of IDP return or to locations with high protection/GBV concerns (e.g. so called Widows camps, Reception Centres).

- Funding is immediately required to ensure continuity of services during and beyond the COVID-19 response. Increased funding will also enable provision of GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response services in collaboration with other sectors and partners.

Child Protection

Key issues and critical activities:

- The Child Protection AoR is only 3.4 per cent funded as of 29 June 2020.¹² Predictable, unrestricted, multi-year funding is required to meet the immediate and longer-term protection needs of children and their families across Syria. Services are already over-stretched or non-existent including in parts of north-east and north-west Syria.
- The impact of limited funding means children and their families are not supported with sustained and predictable child protection services, this includes:
- Psychosocial support (PSS) programmes that provide a sense of normality, stability and structure to children and their caregivers to reduce the risk that short-term distress leads to longer term concerns. As well as adapted PSS programmes to help children and caregivers cope with the impact of COVID-19.
- Specialised child protection services that support children at risk and survivors of violence to cope and recover Such as unaccompanied and separated children and children associated with armed forces and groups.
- Child Protection requires carefully planned and sustained investment from humanitarian actors and donors alike to maximise quality and impact.

- New investments are urgently needed to ensure child protection actors can support children in need with quality prevention and response services throughout and after COVID-19.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)¹³

Total Funding Gaps (July-October)



Key issues:

- Continuous displacement has led to a decrease in areas available to accommodate the newly displaced population. Although IDP sites are usually a last resort option, there are currently 990 IDP sites hosting 1.41 million IDPs in north-west Syria listed in the CCCM Cluster's database, the vast majority of which are self-settled sites.
- The overpopulation of sites and the lack of camp management remain prevalent concerns, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic where the application of preventive, response and mitigation guidance is essential. The CCCM Cluster's multi-sectoral service monitoring in north-west Syria found that camp management was available in only 39 per cent of IDP sites assessed.

Critical activities:

- IDP movement tracking, which provides information on IDP movements, their departure and arrival locations and primary needs. 1,473,000 displaced persons have been tracked across the country from January to May 2020.
- IDP sites service monitoring in 990 IDP sites, which ensures that services are well coordinated and identified gaps are brought to the attention of relevant actors.

11. According to Jan-Mar 2020 4Ws data.

12. Source: Financial Tracking System (FTS). According to Protection Sector estimates, 26 per cent of the funding requirements were funded as of 31 March 2020.

13. The Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster has been formally activated for north-west Syria only, coordinating activities via remote management. Separate coordination mechanisms are in place in north-east Syria. This section relates only to CCCM Cluster activities in the north-west. Key issues and critical activities relating to informal camps, informal sites and settlements and collectives centers in north-east Syria (coordinated by the NES Forum Sites and Settlement Working Group) are covered in the 'NGO Cross-Border Response In North-East Syria' section of this document.

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- Support in establishing camp management systems, particularly in self-settled IDP sites in north-west Syria where no camp management systems have been established. The absence of contingency plans represents a major challenge to mitigate risks related to largescale displacements, fire and flood hazards, and COVID-19.
- Activities related to COVID-19, including camp management to ensure COVID-19 response measures are applied and monitored, and health and WASH committees are established.



Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL)

Total Funding Gaps (July-October)



HRP

Funding Gaps

\$31M



COVID-19

Funding Gaps

\$12.6M

Key issues:

- As of 29 June, the ERL Sector is funded at 6.4 per cent with US\$11.1 million received of US\$174 million requested. The Sector's Covid-19 response received US\$7.7 million covering 37 per cent of the US\$20.7 million requested.
- The ERL sector requires urgent funding to undertake essential response activities, including but not limited to infrastructure rehabilitation, creating income generating opportunities especially for the most vulnerable groups as well as supporting access to one or more basic utilities (electricity, gas, water, sewage). COVID-19 has directly impacted the delivery of activities that require congregating people, such as vocational training and social cohesion sessions.
- ERL needs remain high across Syria and new needs are emerging as a result of increased pressure on essential services and infrastructure due to COVID-19. The southern governorates of Dar'a, and Quneitra, Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa in the north-east, and Idlib in the north-west continue to have severe needs, particularly in the areas of income generating support, restoration of basic services and assistance to persons with disabilities.

Critical activities:

- Creating income generating opportunities (cash for work);
- Light infrastructure rehabilitation;
- Support to small entrepreneurship and industry initiatives;

- Restoration of electricity networks and renewable energy projects;
- Support to people with disabilities.
- The sector will prioritize areas with a high severity of need and where access to basic services is most limited, areas highly destroyed or impoverished where spontaneous return occurs, and areas affected by hostilities. The sector will also factor in that a degree of stability and regular access to the targeted locations is required to implement resilience-oriented ERL activities.



Education

Total Funding Gaps (July-October)



HRP

Funding Gaps

\$49.7M



COVID-19

Funding Gaps

\$9.3M

Key issues:

- As part of preventive health measures, schools and other learning facilities have been closed by authorities since March. Schools in the north-west reopened in June; authorities in the north-east have indicated that schools may reopen in September; Government of Syria authorities have indicated that schools will reopen in September but Grade 12 exams are proceeding in June and non-formal education may resume before September.
- When learning facilities closed, the education response changed from direct delivery to homebased and remote/distance education support. This support is often coupled with psychosocial support and social and emotional learning to support the wellbeing of the child. Despite flexibility and innovative problem-solving the operational environment has challenged the ability to make learning widely accessible and engaging for learners. As schooling resumes, there are efforts to better ensure that this is done as safely as possible.

Critical activities:

- Holistic support to continue and expand the provision of education services through at home or remote/distance modalities for 2.2 million children living in areas with a high education severity;
- Provide children with remedial and catch up education support to address learning loss and prepare children for examinations;

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- Improve the availability of safe and appropriate learning facilities including school disinfection, expansion of classrooms and WASH facilities and ongoing provision of hygiene support so that learning spaces are able to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 as per the global guidelines. This will address concerns that caregivers and students have about safe return to 13,000 schools in areas where the severity of education related needs is high.

Food Security and Agriculture (FSA)

Total Funding Gaps (July-October)



Key issues:

- Food insecurity levels are expected to increase due to high levels of displacement, rapid devaluation of the SYP, increased food prices combined with depleted resources and lack of livelihoods, all in the face of an ongoing crisis and a pandemic which will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on the people in need. The number of people in need of food and livelihoods assistance is likely to increase beyond the 9 million in the coming weeks as a result.
- A high prevalence of food insecurity was already observed prior to the current COVID-19 crisis, with 39 per cent of the Syrian Population (7.9 million people) estimated to be food insecure at the beginning of 2020 – representing an increase by 8 per cent compared to the previous year.
- The impact of unilateral coercive measures, the financial crisis in Lebanon and the COVID-19 pandemic have continued to put immense pressure on the Syrian economy, and in turn seriously affect the welfare of the Syrian population. The depreciation and volatility of the Syrian Pound has sent shockwaves through the economy.
- WFP’s reference food basket prices in June 2020 have seen a dramatic increase across Syria, primarily led by the spiralling SYP/US\$ informal exchange rate. WFP’s national average reference food basket increased by 35 per cent in the first half of June compared to May. All 14 governorates reported average food basket price increases. Idleb Governorate reported the highest average reference food basket price which now costs more than SYP 100,000 (up 45 per cent compared to May). Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates have also recorded significant increases in prices, up 44, 34 and 59 per cent, respectively. Quneitra Governorate registered the highest increase (up 62 per cent compared to May), reaching SYP 80,696/basket.
- The gap between the highest and lowest reference food basket prices in June increased by 124 per cent compared to May 2020 and stands at a 798 per cent wider gap than recorded in June 2019. This trends highlights significant supply chain disruptions and limited control on traders’ food prices. As a result of the uncertainty surrounding the informal exchange rate, in the second week of June wholesalers stopped supplying traders with food until there was market stability. Retailers closed their shops after meeting their daily/weekly sales quota, to avoid running out of stock to cover for possible future increases in prices. This has led to some panic buying, and imported items such as sugar and vegetable oil have become scarce on the market. This trend is an indication that amidst high levels of poverty and severely degraded purchasing power among the Syria population, food availability is also increasingly becoming a major concern.
- Funding shortfalls in the next six months threaten to further undermine the already dire food insecurity situation. While this will affect the current capacity of partners to expand to cover new needs, some key partners could resort to ration cuts as a last resort which could have negative consequences for food security and nutrition.
- Movement restrictions at the early stages of the pandemic posed a huge threat to food production, which is critical in stabilizing national food security. The recent relaxation of these restrictions will be critical to boost food production. A national food deficit is likely to further worsen food inflation – already at a record high levels – if not addressed.

Critical activities:

- Amidst the worsening socio-economic conditions, the FSA Sector continues to record major gaps in assistance in different parts of the country despite reaching at least 5.3 million people with regular food assistance. Significant gaps have been recorded in As-Sweida, parts of Dar’a, Damascus, Aleppo, Idleb and Hama Governorates. Significant gaps have also been recorded for agricultural and livelihoods assistance, particularly in Dar’a, Damascus, As-Sweida, Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Ar-Raqqa Governorates. In the Governorates of Dar’a,

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As-Sweida, Hama, Homs, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor a substantial number of locations have had zero coverage in terms of livelihoods assistance. These gaps require urgent attention for increased funding to meet immediate food and livelihoods needs.

- There is a critical need for support to food production, which has been perpetually underfunded over the past years. Syria's dependence on food assistance will remain in the short to medium term due to expected food gaps at household level as a result of disrupted agriculture activities, shortages in agriculture inputs and displacement of households including farmers.
- The situation in north-west Syria remains fragile. While the threat of renewed violence will further strain response capacity, an urgent scale up is required of emergency food assistance to displaced people both in camps and in host communities.

Health

Total Funding Gaps (July-October)



Key issues:

- As of 29 June, the Health Sector's 2020 HRP appeal is 15 per cent funded with a funding gap of almost US\$377 million which has limited health partners' ability to respond to needs across the country.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans for capacity building in essential health services were necessarily postponed by many partners in order to focus on COVID-19 topics such as surveillance, case management and infection prevention and control (IPC). Outreach activities, such as immunization campaigns and health promotion, were briefly paused to adjust for safe operations, while risk communication was expanded, including the distribution of hygiene kits and informational brochures regarding COVID-19.

- Global demand affected both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 supply chains, causing delays in delivery of medicines, medical supplies and equipment. Coercive measures further constrained supply options while advocacy and logistics efforts continue in order to overcome this barrier.
- Up to 50 per cent of health care workers have left the country. Gaps are particularly acute in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, eastern Deir-ez-Zor and Idleb¹⁴. These shortages include a lack of specialists, such as pulmonologists, infectious disease, and intensive care specialists, who can properly respond to COVID-19. Lack of sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) threatens to further deplete the workforce.
- Health partners operating cross-border continue to struggle with uncertainty and after-effects related to the UNSCR. Simultaneously, health partners within Syria are contending with increasing demands to scale up services in areas which recently changed control, as well expand crossline activities.
- As of 16 June, 16 attacks on health care were reported, more than 75 per cent of which occurred in north-west Syria. 10 deaths and 36 injuries – 6 of which were health care personnel – resulted from these attacks. Protection of health facilities and personnel is of the utmost concern.
- Continued insecurity risks not only further displacement but also outbreaks of disease – including COVID-19. In north-west alone, recent hostilities led to the suspension of 83 facilities since 1 December 2019, significantly weakening the health system and its ability to respond to emergencies.

Critical activities:

- With other countries in the region witnessing accelerating caseloads, the trajectory of COVID-19 outbreak in Syria is not going to be an exception, but rather have devastating effects, given fragile health system and high proportion of vulnerable population. The health sector must focus heavily on public health preparedness and response activities, with particular emphasis on:
 - Enhancing surveillance capacity including active surveillance, with a critical need to expand national and sub-national laboratory capacity to test for timely detection and contact tracing;

14. WHO WoS Consolidated HERAMS, Q4 2019

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- Strengthening infection prevention and control activities – especially among health care workers and along border crossings;
- Preparing facilities with ventilators (and healthcare workers trained to use them) and ICU beds;
- Ensuring isolation and proper case management;
- Expanding culturally- and contextually-appropriate hygiene education awareness raising with an emphasis on vulnerable groups – including close to 1 million IDPs in Idleb and more than 200,000 IDPs in north-east Syria; those in dense and over-crowded urban areas such as Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa; 1.2M people living in last resort sites; more than 802,000 individuals aged 60 and above; and those with underlying health conditions.
- With just 51 per cent of health facilities fully functional across the country¹⁵, humanitarian lifesaving and life-sustaining essential health services must be maintained and enhanced – including reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health services, as well as coordinated referrals to secondary care, trauma services and specialized care. Particular emphasis is needed within 136 sub-districts¹⁶, home to an estimated 1.23 million children under 5 years and 6.28 million women of reproductive age, which fall below emergency standards for both health care workers¹⁷ and primary health care facilities¹⁸.
- Beyond COVID-19, public health measures to prevent, detect and deliver timely response to disease outbreaks must be strengthened and reinforced. This includes surveillance and laboratory capacity, as well immunization services, especially in areas of north-west and north-east where immunization coverage rates fall short of levels needed to achieve herd immunity. There is an increased need for multi-/cross-sectoral collaboration between Health, WASH, and Shelter sectors in order to recover and destroyed infrastructures and facilities that prevent disease outbreaks from occurring.

Nutrition

Total Funding Gaps (July-October)



Key issues:

- The nutrition situation is projected to deteriorate due to COVID-19. Disruption of active case finding and access to nutrition services would increase the burden of moderate and severe malnutrition among girls, boys and women, which may compromise the immune system¹⁹ and threat life. Past experience demonstrates that disrupted multi-sectoral nutrition services aggravate an already poor nutrition situation as, for example, prevalence of malnutrition increased from 1 to 2 percent and stunting from 10 to 29 per cent under age 5 in north-west Syria between April and May 2020.
- The COVID-19 outbreak amidst the crisis threatens to disrupt the nutrition response. The Nutrition Sector has developed an operational guidance for north-west Syria nutrition partners on nutrition response adaptations based on global recommendations. This guidance stipulates programmatic adjustments in the context of COVID-19 is aimed at mitigating the risk of infection while ensuring continuity of life saving nutrition services.

Critical HRP activities:

- Infant and young child feeding support services for both treatment and prevention of the most vulnerable;
- Treatment for moderate and severe acute malnutrition;
- Micronutrient supplementation;
- Nutrition surveillance; and
- Food security and market-based modalities for dietary diversity.

15. *Ibid*

16. Aleppo 33, Al-Hasakeh 15, Ar-Raqaa 8, Dar'a 15, Deir-ez-Zor 10, Hama 7, Homs 3, Idleb 26, Lattakia 2, Rural Damascus 17

17. IASC standards of 22 healthcare workers per 10,000 population

18. IASC standards of 1 PHC per 10,000 population

19. <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/sites/default/files/2020-04/Joint%20statement%20on%20COVID%2019%20and%20Wasting.pdf>

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Critical COVID-19 activities:

- Implement a simplified protocol for the treatment of acute malnutrition;
- Pre-position essential nutrition commodities at health facilities providing nutrition services;
- Scale up precautions on the use of personal protective equipment and social distancing;
- Reactivate all mobile teams and re-start community-based nutrition activities;
- Intensify efforts to strengthen the capacity of mothers and caregivers to detect and monitor the nutritional status of children;
- Initiate efforts to build capacity of community health workers to provide treatment for uncomplicated wasting at community level; and
- Coordination with other sectors in provision of nutrition related messages to children.



Shelter and Non-food Items

Total Funding Gaps (July-October)

Shelter



HRP
Funding Gaps

\$173.2M



COVID-19
Funding Gaps

\$18M

Non-food items



HRP
Funding Gaps

\$288.6M



COVID-19
Funding Gaps

\$9.95M

Key issues:

- COVID-19 has had an effect on the delivery of shelter and NFI assistance in Syria; as many sector partners have reported disruptions of service delivery, shifted programming

to support distribution of hygiene items and repairs of emergency shelter or required additional mitigation measures to continue NFI distributions or shelter support. At the same time the increased displacement at the beginning of the year in north-west Syria and deteriorating economic conditions have led to an increase in needs particularly for NFIs and emergency shelter. The need for cash assistance is expected to remain, especially as the currency continues to depreciate.

- Given the COVID-19 outbreak, the Sector encourages donors to consider prioritizing decongesting overcrowded shelters through the provision and repair of emergency shelters as well as improving sanitation services.
- The increasing cost of construction materials is making it difficult to implement longer term shelter repairs. Delayed permissions and reduced working hours due to COVID-19 particularly in the north-east and areas controlled by the Government of Syria are slowing down the ability to execute longer-term shelter repairs for households, while funding for longer-term shelter projects in the north-west is weak given uncertainty regarding the renewal of the UN cross-border resolution. The Sector was able to support through cash for shelter repair in the north-east; however significant gaps remain across the country in informal settlements, camps and underserved areas.
- Underfunding for longer-term shelter repair has led to a limited response and an increase of people in need of shelter assistance, as evidenced by the increase in the number of people in need from 5.5 million in 2019 to 5.65 million in 2020.

Critical activities:

- In response to largescale displacement in the north-west, partners have scaled up emergency assistance including basic NFIs and emergency shelter for nearly one million people. Overcrowding remains a serious risk, particularly in the north-east and north-west.
- For the COVID-19 response, emergency distributions for NFIs have continued while taking into account the mitigating measures which have increased operational costs and needs, and also expanding the assistance with hygiene materials or soap.
- Shelter interventions have focused on repairs to collective shelters, informal settlements and camps to reduce overcrowding and improve sanitation and hygiene.
- Due to the currency fluctuations, cash programming has

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slowed for some organizations as it is difficult to ensure a meaningful response, however NFI partners are working closely with the cash working group to update the minimum expenditure basket and consider possible alternatives. If the economic situation continues to deteriorate, more people may be in need of winter assistance.

- Longer-term shelter repairs and community infrastructure has also slowed as partners are finding it difficult to procure and ensure stable prices given the continued economic deterioration.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Total Funding Gaps (July-October)



Key issues:

- Though the WASH sector plays a key role in infection prevention and control, and equally serves as a catalyst for attainment of health indicators, overall funding levels for both WASH and WASH COVID-19 response plans remain significantly low at this period of the year.
- Movement restrictions that came about as a result of COVID-19 have led to either the delay or suspension in implementation of some non-critical activities planned for the first half of 2020.
- The devaluation of the Syrian Pound and the volatility of currency rates have had a significant negative impact on the implementation of WASH interventions, particularly on water trucking, light infrastructure rehabilitations, purchasing communication materials or hygiene supplies, and seems to be more impactful in the GoS controlled areas where foreign currencies cannot be officially used.
- Staff safety and access concerns has continued to present a challenge to the Sector. Specific example that could be named is issues with access to Alouk Water Station in TAF-controlled area of north-east Syria, which is the main water supply source for over 460,000 people living in SDF and GoS controlled areas, including Al-Hasakeh city and surroundings and a number of IDP camps and

sites including Al Hol and Areesha. Degradation of security situation in Southern Syria and loss of two sector partners in February 2020 have led to the suspension or slowdown in the implementation of planned WASH interventions.

- Activities addressing imminent risk to lives;
- Continuity of essential lifesaving WASH services for population highly dependent on continued humanitarian assistance living in IDP camps, informal settlements and collective centres. Disruptions of services and their quality have direct negative physical and mental well-being and protection consequences, specifically on women and girls.
- Provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene services, operation and maintenance of WASH systems and facilities must continue in IDP camps, informal settlements and collective centres in north-west and north-east Syria, with emphasis on critical COVID-19 preventive measures such as ensuring sufficient quantity of water (and considering increased consumption during summer months), availability of soap and handwashing facilities, hygiene promotion and/or risk communication activities.
- Continuation of projects in north-west Syria funded by the Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund, that end by 31 July;
- Water supply, sanitation, medical waste management and hygiene promotion interventions in health care facilities, insolation and quarantine centres, this related to COVID-19 prevention;
- WASH interventions in schools;
- Alternative water supply modalities for anticipated disruptions of water production from Alouk Water Station in the Tell Abiad-Ras al-Ain corridor in north-east Syria, which is the main water supply source for over 460,000 people, including in Al-Hasakeh city and surroundings and a number of IDP camps and sites including Al Hol and Areesha;
- Household-level water treatment chemicals for locations with identified issues with water quality;
- Distribution of personal protective kits for community workers (local councils);
- Increase in Multi-Purpose Cash programming due to worsening economic conditions;
- Provision of water disinfection reagents and consumables to water stations;
- Support WASH needs in communities with high number of IDPs and spontaneous returnees (support to water and

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- sanitation systems, distribution of hygiene kits to locations that are identified as gaps, supplementary hygiene kits to 150,000 IDPs in north-west Syria, increase capacities of hygiene promotion teams to work in non-camp settings); and
- Targeted provision of hygiene supplies to families with children with disability, people living with disability, older people, and female-headed households. Hygiene promotion campaigns with the provision of handwashing stations targeting unprivileged areas and vulnerable households (countrywide lack of handwashing facilities were observed in over 6 per cent of assessed households).
 - Activities addressing critical basic needs:
 - Rehabilitation of critical water supply and sanitation systems, with emphasis on areas highly dependent on water trucking;
 - Water, sanitation and solid waste systems support, and hygiene promotion for 41,000 individuals in Ar-Raqqa & Karama sub-districts, 20,000 Individuals in Kisreh sub-district;
 - Within context of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), light rehabilitation of WASH systems in schools (in preparation for scheduled resumption of learning activities), and healthcare facilities (e.g. isolation centres for COVID-19);
 - WASH interventions in underserved rural areas of Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.

Multi-Sectoral Priorities by Response Hub

Response From Within Syria

Overview of the situation:

- Since October 2019, a deepening financial crisis in neighbouring Lebanon has further aggravated humanitarian needs within Syria, triggering a precipitous decline in the value of the Syrian pound – which reached an all-time low of 3,100 SYP per USD on 8 June (400 per cent weaker than it was at the same time in 2019) – reducing remittances (which the most vulnerable households rely on to survive), and driving up prices for staple goods (the cost of the food basket has risen by more than 133 per cent in one year).
- COVID-19 has added a further layer of complexity to what is already a grim socio-economic outlook, generating new needs and simultaneously exacerbating existing ones. Soaring food prices further threatens to undermine household resilience and food insecurity. In June, the cost of a standard food basket increased on average by 35 per cent compared to the month prior. The cost of bread and rice is now six times what they were at the height of the crisis in 2016, just a few years ago, and sixteen times higher than in 2011. According to WFP, almost half the population – some 9.3 million Syrians – are now estimated to be food insecure, an increase of 1.4 million in just the last six months. Not only that, but the number of people severely food insecure – that is those going to bed hungry – has almost doubled, from around 570,000 to just over a million. From an economic standpoint, at least, things have never been worse.
- While the current number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria remains relatively low, cases have more than tripled in the past month – from 50 as of 16 May to 256 as of 27 June – with new clusters emerging following a series of repatriation flights and cases among truck drivers engaged in cross-border commercial movements. The high number of imported cases, combined with relatively low levels of testing – only around 6,800 tests have been conducted so far – the recent relaxation of precautionary measures, the

rapid spread in neighbouring countries (particularly Iraq), including second and even third waves which were worse than the first, mean that Syria remains very high risk.

- Additional risk factors for Syria include high levels of population movement, including religious tourism to holy shrines, particularly sites in Damascus and Rural Damascus; and an existing large population of vulnerable people, including 6.7 million IDPs and 438,000 Palestine refugees; as well as an extremely fragile public health system with a limited-to-moderate response capacity. According to HeRAMs data, only 47 per cent of health centres in Syria are considered functioning and 22 per cent partially functioning. The future trajectory of the virus is unknown, but it is likely that cases are on the ascendancy and we are only currently seeing the tip of the iceberg.
- While some humanitarian programmes were initially disrupted by preventive measures imposed by the Government of Syria in mid-March to contain the potential spread of COVID-19, as of mid-May many have resumed, including mobile medical care, nutrition screening, and protection assistance. At the same time, adjusted modalities, including the use of remote and online platforms and advance and combined food, NFI and WASH distributions, have enabled life-saving assistance to continue for at least 3.5 million people in April and May to date.

Response priorities:

- Scale up COVID-19 prevention and response efforts while there is still an opportunity to contain the outbreak at an early stage, targeting at-risk areas and groups, including 1.7 million IDPs in Damascus and Rural Damascus, 150,000 IDPs in camps and camp-like settings in north-east Syria, in addition to 194,000 Palestine refugees in UNRWA camps and around 47,000 people in an estimated 177 collective shelters (20,000 in NES, 27,000 outside NES). Urgent support required, includes: material supplies to rehabilitate and expand the laboratory network across ten governorates (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Idleb, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous); capacity building; procurement and distributions of personal protective equipment (PPE) at central and governorate level, as well as vital medicines and medical equipment including

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ventilators, portable x-rays, and infra-red thermometers; publication and dissemination of information, education and communication materials and community-level awareness raising and sensitization efforts; increased distribution of soaps, hand sanitizers, and hygiene kits to vulnerable populations; food assistance; the light rehabilitation of designated COVID-19 quarantine and isolation facilities; vital adaptations to collective shelters to reduce overcrowding; as well as educational support to remote or online working, among other activities.

- Mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the regional financial crisis and COVID-19 precautionary measures on the most vulnerable households via a comprehensive multi-sectoral response which seeks to address growing food insecurity and impoverishment, while also shoring up production, agricultural value chains, and cash and voucher interventions, to provide practical livelihoods and income generation opportunities that will serve as life-sustaining assistance. Despite the food security sector reaching some 3.4 million people within Syria each month to date with food assistance in 2020, significant gaps have been recorded in As-Sweida, parts of Dar'a, Damascus, and Hama up to 50 per cent and in some locations more than 80 per cent e.g. Jasmine in Dara (99 per cent), Shaqa in As-Sweida (97 per

cent), as well as Hajin and Tabni in Deir-ez-Zor (90 per cent). In terms of livelihoods, the majority of districts particularly in Dar'a, Damascus, As-Sweida, and Deir-ez-Zor have not more than 25 per cent coverage while a few relatively better assisted locations such as Rural Damascus and Raqqa still have at least 50 per cent deficit in coverage. In Dar'a, As-Sweida, Hama, Homs, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor there are also a substantial number of locations that have received zero coverage in terms of livelihoods. Light rehabilitation of crucial humanitarian infrastructure such as schools, WASH systems and electricity grids is also required in these areas to build community resilience to weather the current public health crisis and to withstand future shocks, as are quick impact livelihoods projects with immediate consumption benefits such as vegetable production.

- Increasing access to services (health, education, WASH, livelihoods support and community-based protection) to an estimated 6.8 million people living in overburdened and underserved communities within Syria, with Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo and Lattakia cities, as well as Qudsaya, Jaramana and At Tall in Rural Damascus among the most affected. Support to areas of second destination and return are also critical to ensure that people receive adequate protection and are not forced to adopt harmful coping mechanisms.

Overview of funding gaps by sector

July – October 2020

SECTORS	WITHIN SYRIA HRP Funding Gaps (July-October)	WITHIN SYRIA COVID-19 Funding Gaps (July-October)
 Protection*	\$230,714,528	n/a
 Early Recovery and Livelihoods	\$24,500,000	\$12,600,000
 Education	\$22,064,058	\$5,688,889
 Food Security and Agriculture	\$389,667,097	\$27,100,595
 Health	\$60,000,000	\$32,000,000
 Nutrition	\$26,000,000	\$8,000,000
 Shelter	\$102,500,000	\$2,600,000
 NFI	\$207,800,000	\$6,950,000
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$25,000,000	\$10,708,925
 Logistics	\$2,390,000	\$0
Total	\$1,068,111,625	\$105,648,409

* The funding gap is based on Protection sector estimates that reflect the financial requirements that have been funded.

Cross-Border Response From Turkey

Overview of the situation:

- 2.8 million people currently require humanitarian support, including some 2.7 million IDPs and 180,000 spontaneous returnees.
- Potential renewed hostilities between non-state armed groups and Government of Syria and allies, particularly south of the M4 highway, may result in new displacement and damage basic services/infrastructure. This would result in new needs and disrupt humanitarians' ability to respond. Most people would likely displace to accessible areas, into an ever-shrinking geography with over-crowding and over-burdened communities and services.
- Potential further displacement given the re-intensified hostilities. Some people affected may already have displaced before, many numerous times. Some people who returned to the areas proximate to the M4 may be vulnerable, given their recent displacement and return to devastated areas within a few months.
- The devaluation of the Syrian pound and the economic deterioration as a result exacerbates existing needs. The Turkish lira and USD are increasingly being adopted.
- Cases or an outbreak of COVID-19 is a significant possibility and would stretch existing response. Existing prevention and mitigation measures already complicate and limit response. All necessary measures to respond to an outbreak are not yet in place.
- Protracted needs of both the displaced and host community are severe. Needs resulting from longer-term stress such as malnutrition, limited education, serious child protection concerns and gender-based protection issues are increasing.
- Tension and conflict within or between non-state armed groups and/or civilians creates an insecure and unpredictable environment and at its worst could result in increased needs.
- In all scenarios, new needs would stretch the ability to respond, particularly if the UN Security Council cross-border resolution is not renewed.










Response priorities:

- Ongoing efforts to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among responders and the population, especially those living in crowded conditions or who are otherwise vulnerable due to age or medical condition. Readiness activities in relation to Covid-19 for all segments of the population.
- Displacement/returns:
 - Continued support to life-saving activities such as shelter, food, water, and health.
 - Increased support to increasing needs in nutrition, education, and protection.
 - Increased support to returnee-specific needs.
- Livelihoods and other support to offset the economic deterioration.
- Activities addressing imminent risk to lives:
 - Continued support to life-saving activities such as shelter, food, water, and health. For example, 78,000 people require accommodation in IDP sites, 118,000 require shelter rehabilitation, and 10,000 more tents are needed; there is a gap of 311,000 people in food assistance; there is a gap of 1.3 million people who require improved access to safe water; and there is a need for urgent and/or chronic medical cases to receive treatment not available in Syria, either through crossing to Turkey or through improvement of services in Syria.
 - Preventative and preparedness activities in relation to Covid-19, including final establishment of Covid-19 Community Treatment Centres, quarantine centres, and triage centres; procurement and use of adequate personal protective equipment for health and humanitarian workers, for which needs are currently being tabulated; increasing surveillance of potential cases; increased hygiene items such as soap to be distributed to community health workers; and supply of essential drugs.
- Activities addressing critical basic needs, preventing the emergence of survival-related needs:
 - Increased support to increasing needs in nutrition, education, and protection. For example, there are 57,000 children and mothers who require treatment for acute malnutrition that are not receiving it; there is a gap of 365,000 students requiring distance learning; and there are increasing reports of child protection issues such as violence in the home and child labour, gender-based protection issues such as short-term marriages, domestic violence, divorces and forced abortions.

- Livelihoods and other support to offset the economic deterioration, including for returnees. This includes restoration/ rehabilitation of essential services, including linked with cash-for-work; support to livelihoods programs that help offset negative coping mechanisms, particularly for vulnerable groups; support for farmers who are now selling their harvests in a rapidly depreciating economic situation; and cash support as appropriate. Some 500,000 people are not currently reachable for early recovery-related programming due to lack of funding, pushing more into exploitative work and circumstances.

Overview of funding gaps by sector

June – October 2020

SECTORS	TURKEY CROSS-BORDER HRP Funding Gaps (July-October)	TURKEY CROSS-BORDER COVID-19 Funding Gaps (July-October)
 Protection*	\$54,884,559	n/a
 Camp Coordination and Camp Management	\$18,000,000	\$7,700,000
 Early Recovery and Livelihoods	\$6,500,000**	\$1,200,000
 Education	\$25,263,540	\$3,122,460
 Food Security and Agriculture	\$81,600,000	\$11,500,000
 Health	\$124,000,000	\$53,000,000
 Nutrition	\$16,900,000	\$2,400,000
 Shelter	\$67,600,000	\$15,000,000
 Non-Food Items	\$75,200,000	\$3,000,000
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$20,000,000	\$18,800,000
Total	\$471,948,099	\$115,722,460

* The funding gap is based on Protection sector estimates that reflect the financial requirements that have been funded.

** Please note that this figure represents the funding gap for both north-west and north-east Syria.

NGO Cross-Border Response in North-East Syria

Overview of the situation:











- Following the decision of the UN Security Council on 10 January 2020 to remove the Yarubiyah crossing from the updated UN Security Council cross-border resolution (UNSCR 2504) NES NGOs no longer have access to the Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund, UN regional funding and humanitarian supplies through Yarubiyah. UN regional funding has been largely used for life saving activities such as health and nutrition as well as education.
- Over three months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in north-east Syria is lower than expected. With no new cases since 29 April, the curfew and restrictions at points of entry have been relaxed significantly. Although these actions indicate reduced urgency, the risk of a 'spike' or second wave into the winter of 2020/2021 remains very real. Considering recent movement dynamics paired with a lack of effective screening measures at points of entry and limited COVID-19 testing capacity, the risk of a second wave remains a major concern. The need for supplies and preparedness activities is a key priority.
- Following the COVID-19 outbreak, NGOs have faced challenges in the movement of humanitarian supplies and personnel between Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and north-east Syria from mid-March onwards. A number of access impediments are persisting, putting an additional strain on the response. Humanitarian actors face significant challenges in importing items into the KRI from overseas, moving supplies within the KRI and ensuring sustained border access.
- Uncertainty of the economic situation in neighbouring countries and fluctuation of the currency continues to impact the socio-economic situation with immediate effects on vulnerabilities and access to basic needs, hence the overall response. Liquidity challenges due to the reduction in economic activity and oil prices in KRI may further impede humanitarian access in the coming months.

Response priorities:

- The ongoing response is focused on the provision of essential services; any gaps in funding are further limiting already constrained activities. Ensuring a holistic response that covers the needs of a complex humanitarian situation in north-east Syria is critical. An imbalanced prioritisation of particular sectors or operational areas has left critical needs unmet.
- There are over 225,000 IDPs and refugees living in last resort sites in north-east Syria, with limited access to essential services such as health and nutrition, WASH, shelter and food assistance to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the financial crisis. This comprises 118,879 people in 10 formal/ informal camps, 41,165 people in over 200 collective centres and 65,264 people in 142 informal settlements. Increase support is critical for information management for IDP sites and displacement settings including multi-sectoral needs assessments, site profiles, site population tracking.
- Deir-ez-Zor Governorate is one of the areas of highest need in north-east Syria. Due to conflict related destruction affecting the functionality and availability of essential services across all areas of the governorate, populations have limited access to schools, healthcare and water. A lack of livelihoods opportunities, particularly exacerbated by recent economic challenges, mean that affordability of services and ability of households to meet basic needs remains a challenge.
- The outlined critical funding gaps need to be seen as whole, with interlinked programmatic priorities that will allow partners operating in NES to sustain essential services.

Overview of funding gaps by sector

June – October 2020

SECTORS	NORTH-EAST SYRIA NGO CROSS-BORDER HRP Funding Gaps (July-October)	NORTH-EAST SYRIA NGO CROSS-BORDER: COVID19- Funding Gaps (July-October)
 Protection*	\$15,417,766	\$425,600
 Camp Coordination and Camp Management	\$805,800**	\$480,600
 Early Recovery and Livelihoods	\$6,500,000***	n/a
 Education	\$2,356,317	\$507,767
 Food Security and Agriculture	\$1,590,105	\$5,097,193
 Health	\$939,000	\$1,840,000
 Nutrition	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000
 Shelter	\$3,100,000	\$431,000
 Non-Food Items	\$5,600,000	n/a
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$2,155,019	\$8,568,235
Total	\$39,964,007	\$18,350,395

* The funding gap is based on Protection sector estimates that reflect the financial requirements that have been funded.

** Please note that CCCM sector is only activated in north-east Syria. This figure reflects the funding gap of NGOs that respond to camp management needs in north-east Syria in coordination with the NES NGO Forum.

*** Please note that this figure represents the funding gap for both north-west and north-east Syria*

Country-Based Pooled Funds Status

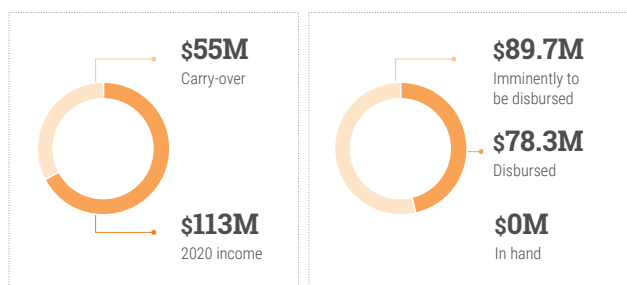
Country-Based Pooled Funds are the quickest and most flexible modality for disbursing funding to partners and enabling timely response²⁰. However, due to recent disbursements and emergency allocations, funding available to pooled funds is critically low.

The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) is currently allocating US\$80 million under its first standard allocation. Since the beginning of the year, thanks to the generous contributions of 14 donors, the SCHF has allocated a total amount of US\$168 million through one standard allocation and two emergency reserve allocations; one at the beginning of the year to respond to the massive population displacement and scale-up of violence in north-west Syria, and another to support the operational readiness plan for COVID-19. As of 20 June, all the available resources will be exhausted with the ongoing allocation and the SCHF has no funding left in hand (exclusive of pipeline). Any new funding will either be used to reinforce the current response or to respond to unforeseen needs, since the funding allocated since the beginning of the year is not sufficient to cover the needs in north-west Syria.

The Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) has allocated US\$30 million so far in 2020. Of this, US\$23 million was allocated under the first reserve allocation to support COVID-19 prevention and response efforts. Since the beginning of the year, the SHF has received a total of US\$40 million through the generous and timely contributions of 11 donors, and has a current balance of US\$58.3 million. At present, the SHF is preparing its first standard allocation, expected to be launched at the beginning of July, with an estimated envelope of US\$40 million. This will bring the total allocation for 2020 to US\$70 million. The SHF will have a remaining US\$17.3 million in hand for contingencies, including an enhanced response in the event of a spike in COVID-19 cases. The reserve will also support outreach efforts to new communities in need, including those living in areas outside government control, and to self-organized returnees.

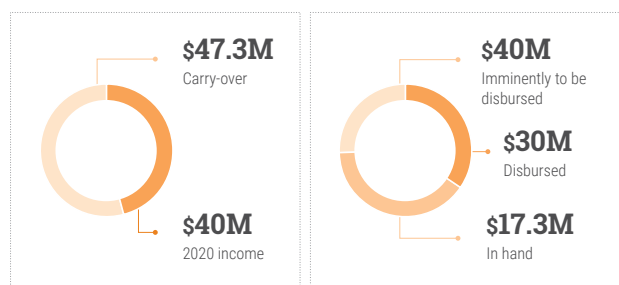
Status of the Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund

in US\$ millions - 21 June 2020



Status of the Syria Humanitarian Fund

in US\$ millions - 19 June 2020



Donors are encouraged to urgently provide funding to Country-Based Pooled Funds.

20. 'Cross-border' NGOs operating in north-east Syria cannot access this funding stream.



For information on funding recorded against the 2020 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan and the COVID-19 response: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/924/summary>

To view all projects published under the 2020 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/924/projects>



For an up-to-date comprehensive overview of humanitarian needs, response and funding for Syria, visit the Humanitarian InSight online portal: <https://hum-insight.info>

Supporting the Humanitarian Response

Contributing To The Syria Humanitarian Response Plan And COVID-19 Response

Donating Through Country-Based Pooled Funds For The Syria Crisis

For information on contributing to the Syria HRP and COVID-19 response, and donating through country-based pooled funds, visit the OCHA Syria web page: www.unocha.org/syria

Donating Through The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

Find out about the CERF and how to donate by visiting the CERF website: www.cerf.un.org

Registering And Recognizing Your Contributions

OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its purpose is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and expose gaps in humanitarian plans. Please report yours to FTS, either by email to fts@un.org or through the online contribution report form at <http://fts.unocha.org>

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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
HUMANITARIAN FUNDING GAPS

As identified for the period July - October 2020

ISSUED JUNE 2020