UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING NEEDS REGIONAL SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE



NAVIGATING A WORLD OF CONSTANT UNCERTAINTY, WHERE EVERY DAY IS A BATTLE AGAINST DANGER, "BEING A WOMAN IN SYRIA TODAY MEANS **FOF SURVIVAL.**" THE WEIGHT DESPAIR, AND 7

- MARIAM, a woman from Deir-ez-Zor, Syria



UPDATED JANUARY 2025

verall humanitarian appeals

19% FUNDED

OVERVIEW

ITUATIO

In light of the extensive humanitarian needs in 2025, compounded by economic collapse and ongoing mass displacement, women and girls throughout Syria and refugee hosting countries are more reliant than ever on humanitarian assistance, making the consequences of underfunding both significant and far-reaching.

Despite the continuing efforts of humanitarian actors, the Syria crisis remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies. By year-end 2024, 16.7 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance — the highest number since the onset of the crisis in 2011. This included 8.4 million women and girls, around 4.1 million of whom are of reproductive age. Meanwhile, more than 6.3 million Syrian refugees remain in five neighbouring countries – Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, nearly half of whom are women and girls who face mounting risks of violence, exploitation, and lack of access to essential services.

Political instability and economic collapse place lives at risk

As of January 2025, ongoing violence, political instability, and the cumulative impact of over 14 years of conflict continue to disrupt civilian life and hinder humanitarian assistance in Syria. Millions of Syrians, displaced and living in fear since 2011, are struggling to access basic services as critical infrastructure, including water, sanitation, and public health systems, deteriorates due to insufficient investment. The region faces recurrent disease outbreaks, waterborne illnesses, vaccine-preventable diseases, severe drought, and widespread food and water insecurity, resulting in increased malnutrition, mortality, and a growing demand for aid.

Meanwhile, the worsening economic crisis, marked by high inflation, currency depreciation, and rising commodity prices, has driven further internal migration as families seek livelihoods and better access to services. Vulnerable groups, especially women, girls, and individuals with disabilities, are most affected by these compounding crises, with limited access to essential services increasing their risk of harm and social exclusion.

Worsening tensions in the region have had a profound impact on Syrians and Syrian refugees in neighboring countries, particularly in Lebanon. The final quarter of 2024 saw escalating hostilities in Lebanon, marked by widespread attacks, political instability, and deteriorating security conditions. These developments have intensified cross-border movements, with more than 500,000 people crossing from Lebanon in Syria. Refugees faced a difficult choice between the risks of staying in a volatile Lebanon or the uncertainties of returning to Syria, where safety, stability, and access to essential services remain significant challenges. Despite the precarious conditions, some refugees are cautiously optimistic about rebuilding their lives in Syria. The spillover of the war in Gaza into Syria has further complicated the situation, with strikes on Syrian territory, including civilian infrastructure, threatening civilian safety and disrupting critical aid deliveries.

Moreover, in late 2024, Syria experienced a significant regime change when rebel forces launched a coordinated offensive, culminating in the capture of Damascus and the collapse of the longstanding government after over five decades of rule. This seismic political shift displaced approximately 1.1 million people, primarily from Aleppo, Idleb, Hama, and Homs, with many seeking refuge in Idleb, Hama, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, and Tartous. Over five thousand internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northwest Syria left camps to return to their homes despite the precarious conditions. While some areas in Syria have seen improved security, the country remains largely unstable due to ongoing clashes and major territorial and political shifts, which continue to hinder aid delivery and access to services.

Women & girls continue to pay the steepest price

Amid ongoing displacement, women and girls in Syria face escalating risks, particularly in overcrowded camps and fragile environments. Access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and legal support remains extremely limited, leaving many without the protection or resources they urgently need. The cumulative impact of the crisis has left many health facilities ill-equipped to meet even basic needs, further straining the ability to provide care. This gap is particularly acute in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, with rural communities and areas affected by security risks being the most underserved. Thousands of women and girls lack access to essential SRH services, including transportation, safe referrals. and access to skilled providers, placing their health and safety in jeopardy.

Meanwhile, gender-based violence (GBV) is pervasive, compounded by the scarcity of support systems like psychosocial services, safe shelters, and legal protection. <u>Evidence</u> from assessments and focus group discussions reveals that violence and gender inequality permeate daily life, disproportionately impacting women and girls. Discriminatory attitudes rooted in age, displacement, disability, and marital status amplify these risks, fostering an environment where women and girls are devalued, controlled, and exploited. This systemic violence leaves survivors vulnerable and often subject to blame for the harm they endure.

"The violence feels constant, and we've grown used to it, which makes it even scarier," says Mariam, a mother of three living in a camp near Hama. Humanitarian organizations are striving to address these gaps, but persistent insecurity, restricted access, and underresourced facilities continue to hinder their efforts, leaving thousands without the care and protection they need.

Adolescent girls in Syria face profound challenges, including movement restrictions, domestic violence, forced marriage, and early pregnancies, which trap them in cycles of exploitation and poverty. Many are denied education, cutting off opportunities for a better future. "I had to leave school to care for my siblings. Now I don't see how I'll ever go back," shares Nour, a displaced girl in Aleppo. Families often resort to child marriage, viewing it as the only way to protect their daughters. "Girls are being married off younger and younger because families don't know how else to protect them," explains Amal, 16, now in Tartous. Despite these hardships, women and girls demonstrate resilience. UNFPA-supported safe spaces offer critical psychosocial support, medical care, and legal assistance, helping survivors of GBV and early marriage navigate trauma. However, funding shortfalls threaten these programs, limiting their reach and jeopardizing recovery efforts. Without sustained support, countless women and girls may lose access to these vital lifelines, undermining efforts to break the cycle of violence and exploitation.

Syrians & host communities still face an uphill battle

Among the 6.3 million Syrian refugees in neighboring countries, women and girls face heightened vulnerabilities, with gender-based violence (GBV) posing an ever-present threat. Many live in overcrowded, insecure environments where harassment, assault, and exploitation are daily risks. The worsening economic conditions, exacerbated by global crises such as the war in Ukraine, have forced many families into harmful survival strategies, including child and forced marriages.

Even as parts of Syria stabilize and the possibility of return grows for some, uncertainty looms large for many refugees. Persistent challenges in host countries — such as language barriers, discrimination, and economic hardship — restrict access to work, education, healthcare, and essential services. For women and girls, these obstacles heighten the risk of violence and exploitation while limiting their access to justice and protection, perpetuating cycles of marginalization and exclusion.

UNFPA stands with those impacted

Despite immense challenges, Syrians across the region remain steadfast, demonstrating remarkable resilience and determination. Women and girls who have survived gender-based violence, along with individuals from diverse backgrounds, continue to rise above their traumas to create better futures for their families and communities.

In 2024, as part of its regional crisis response, UNFPA delivered SRH services to more than 1.7 million people, reached around 800,000 with services to prevent and respond to GBV, and supported approximately 400,000 adolescent girls with vital services. Over 13,000 women received cash and voucher assistance, and around 7,900 LGBTQIA+ individuals accessed targeted support.

UNFPA extends deep gratitude to all donors who contributed to its 2024 regional Syria crisis response. Of the \$145.6 million regional appeal, more than \$93.7 million – 64 per cent – was secured, including over \$55 million allocated to the Whole of Syria, fulfilling 82 per cent of that specific appeal. This funding has been transformative, enabling the delivery of lifesaving SRH services, addressing GBV, and empowering adolescents and young people through education, skills development, and psychosocial support, improving the health, safety, and futures of countless individuals across the region.



\$157,169,300 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

19% FUNDED

The humanitarian landscape has grown increasingly complex, with overlapping global crises creating unprecedented demands on the international community's attention and resources. In this challenging context, the availability of essential services is critical, particularly in conflict-affected regions like Syria, where millions of women and girls face heightened risks. UNFPA-supported health facilities and safe spaces play a vital role in these regions by providing lifesaving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care and protection from gender-based violence (GBV). These services are more than medical support—they represent safe havens where women and girls find sanctuary, dignity, and the tools to rebuild their lives.

UNFPA services are often irreplaceable

V

In many parts of Syria, UNFPA-supported facilities are often the only providers of comprehensive SRH services, including emergency obstetric care, neonatal services, contraception, and clinical management of rape. Without these services, maternal and infant morbidity and mortality would likely rise sharply, and complications from pregnancy would go untreated, endangering the lives of countless women and newborns. Given the fragile state of healthcare infrastructure in conflict-affected areas, these services are indispensable for ensuring the health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations.

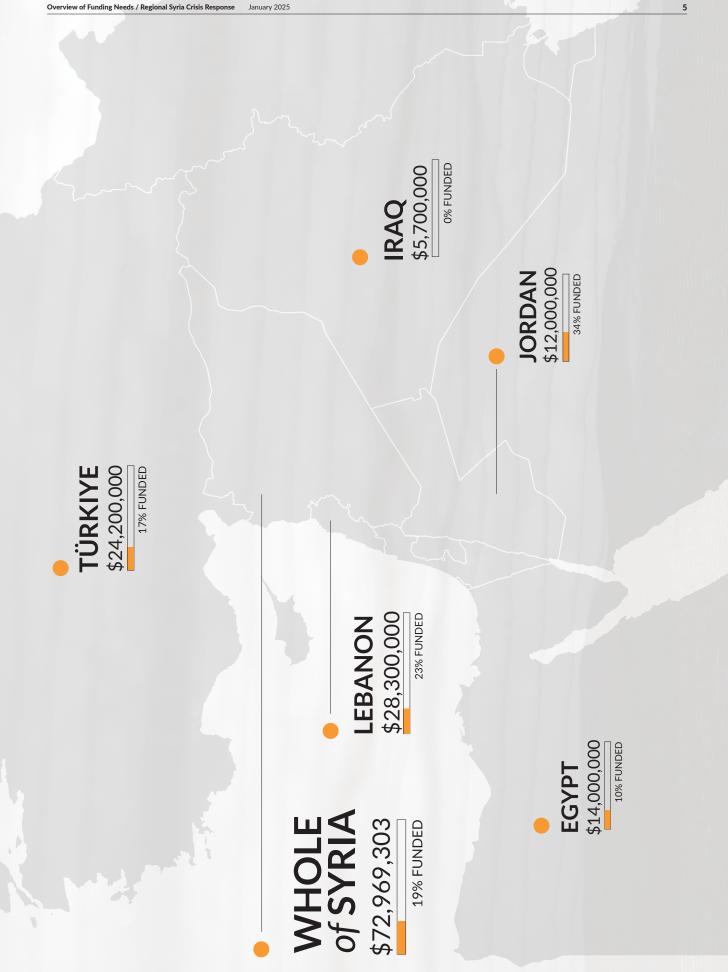
Equally important are the safe spaces that offer refuge and psychosocial support to survivors of violence. These spaces create protective environments where women and girls can access medical care, counseling, and a sense of community. In areas where legal protection is weak and social norms often fail to safeguard women's rights, these safe spaces are crucial for preventing violence and exploitation. Their presence not only saves lives but also helps break cycles of trauma and marginalization by fostering resilience and empowerment. Underfunding not only hinders the implementation of innovative programmes and community outreach initiatives aimed at fostering gender equality and women's empowerment, but it also risks undoing much of the progress made in combating harmful social norms and practices, particularly in areas where patriarchal attitudes are already deeply entrenched.

Moreover, these facilities contribute to long-term stability by promoting gender equality and supporting women's participation in education, employment, and community life. Without access to such services, women and girls face increased risks of violence, diminished opportunities, and entrapment in cycles of poverty and dependence. This harms not only individual lives but also the broader prospects for recovery and development in conflict-affected regions.

Despite the critical role of these services, the growing competition for limited humanitarian funding threatens their continuity. Underfunding risks shutting down essential programmes, undoing years of progress in addressing harmful social norms, and leaving countless women and girls without the support they need. Sustained and adequate funding is imperative to safeguard the lives and futures of women and girls in Syria and beyond, and to ensure that they have a chance to contribute meaningfully to the recovery and stabilization of their communities.

SARA, a young Syrian woman living in Damascus

NND UKEAMS SIBLE."



PEA

	SYRIA APPEALS	OTHER APPEALS	TOTAL
SRH	\$51,922,641	\$6,800,000	\$58,722,641
GBV	\$61,342,012	\$7,800,000	\$69,142,012
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$18,245,745	-	\$18,245,745
OTHER	\$11,058,905	-	\$11,058,905
TOTAL	\$142,569,303	\$14,600,000	\$157,169,303

19% FUNDED

1,708,349

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES 98% FEMALE

798,683

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

94% FEMALE

399,422

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

21,228

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES 91% FEMALE

7,860

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

13,047

)24 ACHIEVEMEN

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

98% FEMALE

15,423 PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

84% FEMALE

UNFPA's regional response to the Syria crisis encompasses a comprehensive approach tailored to address the multifaceted challenges faced by affected populations across the region. Central to this response is ensuring access to critical sexual and reproductive health services and robust mechanisms for protecting against and responding to gender-based violence, with a strong focus on vulnerable groups such as women, adolescents, and girls.

UNFPA's strategy, deeply embedded in SRH-GBV integration, focuses on capacity building within communities and healthcare systems, aiming to enhance service delivery in challenging environments while fostering resilience among affected populations. Central to this approach is empowering marginalised individuals, including women and girls with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ individuals, in addition to actively combating harmful gender norms. Through concerted advocacy and policy work, UNFPA ensures that gender issues are intricately woven into every aspect of the response.

UNFPA collaborates with a range of partners, including local NGOs and women-led organisations, international organisations and INGOs, and government bodies, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to the ongoing humanitarian needs arising from the Syria crisis.



	SYRIA APPEALS	OTHER APPEALS	TOTAL
SRH	\$26,804,807	-	\$26,804,807
GBV	\$22,980,591	-	\$22,980,591
YOUTH	\$2,482,380	-	\$2,482,380
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$12,125,000	-	\$12,125,000
OTHER	\$8,576,525	-	\$8,576,525
TOTAL	\$72,969,303	-	\$72,969,303

1,387,512 PEOPLE REACHED WITH

SRH SERVICES 99% FEMALE

595,411

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

94% FEMALE

82,162 PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 81% FEMALE

301,962

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

12,419 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES

90% FEMALE

J24 ACHIEVEMENTS

4,353 PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

7,977 PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS 78% FEMALE In response to Syria's evolving context, UNFPA's 2025 strategy prioritises sustaining critical SRH and GBV services while adapting to socio-political changes. Key actions include strengthening partnerships with local authorities and organisations, ensuring service continuity via static units, outreach teams, and telehealth, and partially supporting public institutions with essential medical supplies. Capacity building will be reinforced through ongoing training and knowledge-sharing platforms, while participatory monitoring and data-driven advocacy will guide programme adaptation. UNFPA will promote holistic care by integrating SRH, GBV, and mental health services, with cash assistance to improve access for vulnerable groups, and establish social support networks linking survivors of violence to essential services.

Meanwhile, Gaziantep Cross-Border operations will enhance SRH and GBV service integration in north-west Syria, focusing on social inclusion by tailoring services for persons with disabilities, older individuals, and adolescent girls. Outreach teams and mobile units will receive support to reach remote areas, while community engagement will promote positive behaviours and address harmful norms. Localisation will be strengthened by partnering with local, especially women-led, NGOs to build capacity, foster ownership, and ensure sustainable impact throughout Syria.



7

	SYRIA APPEALS	EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY	TOTAL
SRH	\$7,735,000	-	\$7,735,000
GBV	\$15,865,000	-	\$15,865,000
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$600,000	-	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$24,200,000	-	\$24,200,000

102,092

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES 96% FEMALE

99,091 PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

96% FEMALE

29,643 ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

497

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES 88% FEMALE

4,240 LGBTOIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

1,747

024 ACHIEVEMEN

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE 52% FEMALE

1,680 PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS 77% FEMALE

UNFPA, the largest international organisation in Türkiye, provides vital services in safe motherhood, GBV prevention and response, and resilience support for vulnerable refugee and host populations, particularly in earthquake-affected areas. Specialised SRH, adolescent health, and protection services are delivered through women's safe spaces, disability service units, and refugee service units, offering reproductive health counselling, GBV case management, social cohesion activities, and empowerment programmes. Disability and youth inclusion are prioritised through targeted partnerships, while cash and voucher assistance (CVA) is integrated to improve access to family planning and hygiene products. UNFPA closely monitors developments related to voluntary returns to Syria and adapts its programmes accordingly. Additionally, it strengthens national and local systems through capacity-building and guideline development. As co-chair of the GBV Sub-Sector in earthquake response and the Youth Task Team under the Protection Sector, UNFPA plays a key leadership role in national and regional coordination efforts.



HILAL, a young Syrian woman living in Türkiye

17% FUNDED

SYRIA APPEALS OTHER APPEALS		TOTAL	
\$8,700,000	\$4,000,000	\$12,700,000	
\$7,000,000	\$3,600,000	\$10,600,000	
\$5,000,000	-	\$5,000,000	
-	-	-	
\$20,700,000	\$7,600,000	\$28,300,000	
	\$8,700,000 \$7,000,000 \$5,000,000 -	\$8,700,000 \$4,000,000 \$7,000,000 \$3,600,000 \$5,000,000 - -	

148,045

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES 92% FEMALE

82,326 PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

93% FEMALE

52,971

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

5,784

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES 89% FEMALE

3,619

LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS SERVICES

3,014

2024 ACHIEVEMEN

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE 95% FEMALE

5,464 PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS 93% FEMALE

UNFPA Lebanon will provide integrated SRH and GBV services to refugees, IDPs, returnees, migrant workers, and host communities, promoting social cohesion through a cross-population approach. Services will be delivered via women's safe spaces, health care facilities, mobile units, and medical teams, covering maternal care, family planning, STI management, clinical management of rape, and SRH education, including menstrual hygiene management (MHM). UNFPA will ensure continuity of care by procuring essential medications and IARH kits and supporting safe delivery for vulnerable groups. GBV services will include case management, psychosocial support, risk mitigation, prevention, and empowerment, with a strengthened MHPSS component in the post-war context. Dignity kits and cash and voucher assistance (CVA) will enhance access to SRH and GBV services. UNFPA will invest in policy development, capacity building for national institutions, and engagement with municipalities, applying an intersectional approach to serve LGBTQI+ populations, adolescent girls, and persons with disabilities. As co-lead of the GBV and SRH working groups and the LGBTQI+ task force, UNFPA will continue its leadership in humanitarian response and resilience efforts.



	SYRIA APPEALS	OTHER APPEALS	TOTAL
SRH	\$4,882,834	-	\$4,882,834
GBV	\$6,596,421	-	\$6,596,421
SUPPLIES / COMMODITIES	\$520,745	-	\$520,745
TOTAL	\$12,000,000	-	\$12,000,000

68,213

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES 100% FEMALE

5,984

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING 97% FEMALE

7,799

PEOPLE REACHED WITH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 71% FEMALE

12,402

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

2,409

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES REACHED WITH VARIOUS SERVICES 99% FEMALE

3,668

J24 ACHIEVEMENTS

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE 99% FEMALE

214 PEOPLE TRAINED ON VARIOUS TOPICS

74% FEMALE

UNFPA Jordan will build on the progress made in 2024 to integrate SRH services across different health platforms, focusing on system resilience and adaptability to changing needs. The strategy will emphasise multi-sectoral partnerships and coordination to ensure a holistic approach to SRH access and education. Quality assurance and accessibility of SRH services will be a significant focus, with special attention given to vulnerable groups like refugees and displaced persons. The GBV protection strategy will shift towards creating sustainable national partnerships, innovative behavioral change strategies, enhanced service delivery, strengthened coordination and response, and data utilisation for capacity building. Both the SRH and GBV components will enable a catalytic process towards resilience and developmentoriented programmes.



 SYRIA APPEALS
 OTHER APPEALS
 TOTAL

 SRH
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000
 \$1,000,000

0% FUNDED

UNFPA's strategy in Iraq focuses on fostering sustainable development through strategic partnerships with government entities, civil society, women and youthled organisations, the private sector, and UN agencies, with an emphasis on South-South and triangular cooperation. As Iraq transitions from humanitarian aid to a development-led model under the new UNSDCF, UNFPA will support the government in assuming responsibility for essential services, particularly for the 321,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Key priorities include enhancing SRH services by improving access to quality care and education, mitigating and responding to GBV through community engagement and survivor support, and empowering youth through skills development and active participation in decision-making. UNFPA will mobilise diverse funding sources and implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure adaptability and impact, fostering resilient communities and long-term progress.

> 677 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES 100% FEMALE

4,333

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING

90% FEMALE

686

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

8

2024 ACHIEVEMEN

WOMEN & GIRLS' SAFE SPACES SUPPORTED

11 Δ CY

YUMNA, a young Syrian woman living in Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq

	SYRIA APPEALS	REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN 2025	TOTAL
SRH	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$5,600,000
GBV	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$8,400,000
TOTAL	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$14,000,000

In Egypt, the focus of UNFPA's strategy in 2024 will address the growing humanitarian needs arising from the influx of Sudanese refugees since April 2023 and the ongoing Gaza crisis. UNFPA Egypt plays a critical role in the Inter-Agency Coordination team for the Refugee Response, collaborating with the Government of Egypt to develop a comprehensive '2024 Egypt Regional Refugee Response Plan.' This plan adopts a onerefugee approach, collectively targeting all nationalities of refugees with essential SRH and protection services, including Syrians, Sudanese, host communities, and others.

1,810 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SRH SERVICES 83% FEMALE

11,538

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GBV PROGRAMMING 96% FEMALE

1,758

ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUPPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS PROGRAMMES

265

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

100% FEMALE

13 WOMEN &

WOMEN & GIRLS' SAFE SPACES SUPPORTED

. ЧЦ ЧЦ Δ Δ . ・フ LL Υ \triangleleft \triangleleft 11 Ē \triangleleft

ZEINA, a young Syrian woman living in Egypt

Underfunding UNFPA's crisis response jeopardises essential health and protection services for women, girls, and infants, increasing mortality risks and leaving many without access to vital gender-based violence programming. Throughout Syria, at least 42 health facilities, 52 mobile teams, 36 safe spaces, and 8 youth centres are at risk of closure due to funding shortfalls, resulting in unmet needs for over one million women and girls. Similar risks face neighbouring host countries, where more than 700,000 people will face challenges accessing the care they need.

> As the world navigates an era marked by escalating global conflicts, the pressing challenges of climate change, and a stagnating global economy, the plight of those in humanitarian settings grows increasingly precarious. This is particularly evident in the case of the Syria crisis, whose protracted nature starkly illustrates the consequences of placing politics before humanity.

> For nearly 14 years, this particular crisis has not only caused widespread devastation but also set a precedent for the neglect of urgent humanitarian needs amidst political stalemates and shifting global priorities. As other areas in the region head in a similar direction, drawing attention and resources away, Syrians throughout the region — already grappling with the long-term impacts of their crisis – risk being forgotten. This situation underscores a worrying trend where those most in need are continually sidelined by the world's ever-changing focus and the complex interplay of global events.

With Syria's fragile new political reality, the remaining numbers of internally displaced persons, devastated infrastructure, and the significant population in need create immense pressure on an already strained system. The anticipated return of displaced individuals, many to areas with no homes or functioning services, risks further overwhelming local communities and recovery efforts. This underscores an urgent need for sustained humanitarian aid and recovery support to stabilize the situation, rebuild critical infrastructure, and ensure that returnees can reintegrate safely without exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

Underfunding UNFPA's regional response to the crisis will significantly impact health facilities that provide sexual and reproductive health services. These services are vital for pregnant women, new mothers, and their infants. Maternal health services, including prenatal and postnatal care, family planning, and safe childbirth, are crucial for preventing maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. It also deprives them of a crucial entry point for survivors of sexual violence in conflict and other forms of gender-based violence to access specialised support and services.

Another dire consequence of underfunding is the inevitable closure of women and girls' safe spaces, which have proven to be unparalleled tools for safeguarding the health and well-being of women and girls in need. The gap left behind by such closures leave women and girls without essential protection and support services, often in areas where no alternatives exist, putting them at further risk of gender-based violence, exploitation, and abuse. The situation is further exacerbated for the millions of displaced and refugee women and girls throughout the region, whose access to such services is even more critical.

Most importantly, the loss of funding will have a ripple effect on communities and societies at large. It threatens to reverse vital progress in gender equality and women's empowerment, as programmes supporting these areas are often the first to face budget cuts. This not only hampers individual advancement but also stymies broader societal progress toward gender parity, which is crucial for community development and regional stability.





"LIFE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY INTOLERABLE IN RECENT YEARS, AND THIS HAS BEEN THE SAME FOR ALL THE WOMEN IN MY FAMILY. THE CONSTANT THREAT OF VIOLENCE AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS PUSHED US ALL TO OUR LIMITS."

– SANA, a young woman from north-west Syria

January 2025

WE'RE **GRATEFUL**.

UNFPA is grateful to the following donors for supporting our regional Syria crisis response

Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, The European Commission, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and the US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

United Nations:

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, the Syria Humanitarian Fund, and UNFPA core resources and Humanitarian Thematic Fund.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sherin Saadallah

Senior Resource Mobilization and Partnership Adviser UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (ASRO) Cairo, Egypt Email: saadallah@unfpa.org Tel: +20 1093 942 725

Diana Garde Head of the Regional Humanitarian Hub for Syria and the Arab States Amman, Jordan Email: garde@unfpa.org Tel: +962 79 5756755

Updated January 2025 Developed by the UNFPA Regional

Humanitarian Hub for Syria and the Arab States



