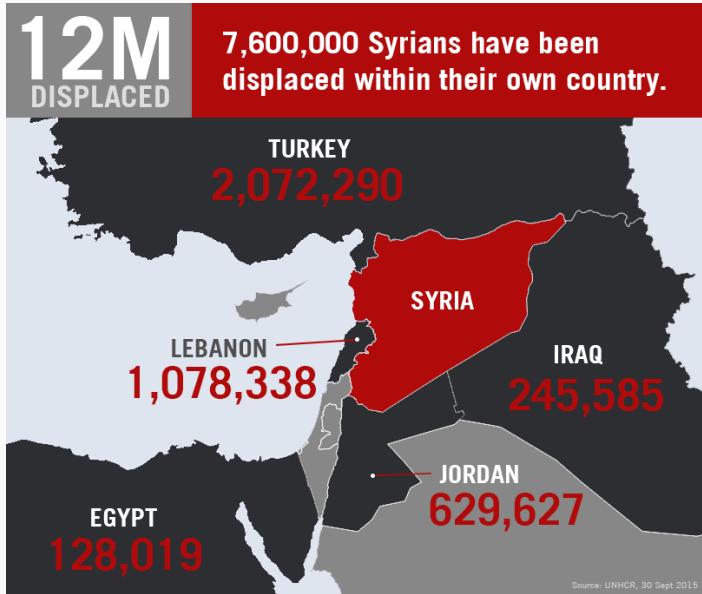


The Syrian Refugee Crisis

IMPACT ON THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET



What is the scope of the refugee crisis in Syria?

Since the start of the conflict in 2011, 12 million Syrians have left their homes — more than half of Syria's population. An estimated 4 million Syrians have fled the country and nearly 8 million have been displaced within the country. Of the Syrians in need of assistance, nearly half are children. Further, the crisis has spilled beyond Syria to undermine security in an already volatile region, affecting neighboring states such as Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq, and bringing conflict to Israel's border.

What have the U.S. and other countries done to address the Syrian refugee crisis?

Worldwide, donors have committed or contributed \$14.6 billion in humanitarian assistance over the past four years. The United States, the largest contributor, has provided a total of \$4.5 billion through the International Affairs Budget. The next largest donors include the UK, Germany, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Private individuals and organizations have also provided over \$700 million in aid. Much of the U.S. assistance supports relief efforts delivered by U.S. NGOs like Save the Children, CARE, and Mercy Corps. In addition to humanitarian assistance, the United States also provided Jordan with approximately \$1 billion in economic and military assistance in FY14, including \$340 million focused on needs arising from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

Has this been enough to deal with the crisis of Syrian refugees?

Current efforts have fallen far short of what is needed to adequately address the crisis. As a result of funding shortfalls, the World Food Program recently reduced the value of its food vouchers for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. In Lebanon, for example, the ration allowance was cut from \$27 to \$13.50 per month per person. The UN has issued a global appeal for \$8.4 billion to fund humanitarian assistance to Syria in 2015, but less than half (\$3.8 billion) has been provided.

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What are the consequences of this crisis for our strategic allies?

The war in Syria has placed tremendous pressure on neighboring countries and U.S. strategic allies Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. Approximately 4 million Syrian refugees are now concentrated in Turkey (approximately 1.7 million), Lebanon (approximately 1.1 million, where they make up nearly one fourth of the population), Jordan (approximately 629,000) and Iraq (approximately 249,000). The worsening situation has also been a key driver of the recent surge of refugees and migrants into Europe, where Syrians account for at least one-third of the recent arrivals. In addition, the instability has allowed extremist entities like the Islamic State to take root.

What are the Congressional proposals to respond to the crisis?

Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chairman and Ranking Member of Senate Appropriations State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee, introduced emergency funding legislation to help address the crisis. The proposal provides \$1 billion in additional humanitarian assistance to assist Syrian and Iraqi refugees located in neighboring countries, and refugees resettled in the United States.

Are there other crises around the world requiring American leadership?

There are currently three additional humanitarian crises – in Iraq, South Sudan and Yemen – that the UN has declared as “Level 3” emergencies, the most severe classification. In addition, there are ongoing humanitarian crises in Somalia, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Nepal, Ukraine, Pakistan and elsewhere. Taken together, these crises are generating an unprecedented demand for humanitarian assistance.

What is the impact on the U.S. International Affairs Budget?

With the world facing growing humanitarian disasters and a myriad of complex threats, from the Middle East, to Africa, to Russia’s continued aggression, American leadership is needed now more than ever. These growing conflicts are adding unforeseen and unrealistic pressure on the current resources provided under the International Affairs Budget. Without adequate resources America’s ability to respond to the demands from emergencies, humanitarian disasters, and ongoing global challenges is constrained.