



[The United Nations Warns That a Record 12.3 Million Syrian Children are in Need of Aid Both Inside the Country and in the Wider Region Where Many Have Fled](#)

The United Nations has intensified fundraising efforts after they recently announced a record 12.3 million Syrian children are now in need of aid. The devastating Syrian conflict has been ongoing for more than a decade, with no end in sight. The war has caused untold death and destruction, and forced many people to flee their homes. Despite these dire circumstances, funding has been dwindling over time. Of the 12.3 million children in need, an astounding 6.5 million are still in Syria and the rest are in surrounding countries. The alarming increase in food insecurity is due in large part to the war in Ukraine, a nation which produces a large amount of wheat. The dip in wheat production has led to skyrocketing food prices, with the cost of basic supplies also rising substantially. The embargo on Russian oil due to the government's calamitous invasion of Ukraine has led to higher energy prices too, further exacerbating the financial strain on families in Syria. The neighboring countries to which an estimated 5.8 million children have fled to are additionally facing the ramifications of economic instability.

The toll on vulnerable children as a result of the Syrian conflict has been horrendous. A recorded at least 13,000 children have been killed or injured over the preceding decade, but observers fear that this number is likely even higher. Nearly 1/3 of all children in Syria are chronically malnourished. Seeking treatment can be dangerous as well, with more than 600 medical facilities, including children and maternal hospitals, being often subjected to coming under attack. Many of the children negatively affected face the constant uncertainty of when and where they will get their next meal.

For the second year in a row, international donations have fallen short of the need. The United Nations was seeking \$10.5 billion for 2022 to help vulnerable Syrians, but international donations only added up to \$6.7 billion. This year's shortfall can also be significantly attributed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as many donors redirect their funds to help the 5.5 million Ukrainians who have fled to neighboring countries as a result of the war. A further 7 million are displaced within Ukraine. Another contributor to this lack of funds is donor fatigue, which has worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a longstanding 11 years of conflict in Syria.

There have also been barriers to getting aid into Syria, as there is only one border crossing left that is open for humanitarian aid. The Bab al-Hawa border crossing is from Turkey to Syria. The U.N. Security Council resolution to keep it open will expire in July. As of now, there has been no agreement to extend the resolution. Turkey has signaled that it will work to keep the border crossing open after President Erdogan pledged that the country will not expel Syrian refugees.

In response to the financial shortfalls, some countries have increased their funding. The United States is providing \$800 million in new humanitarian assistance. The European Union has also pledged to provide an additional \$1.6 billion to help with the shortfall. Though these donations will help significantly, the total amount still falls a bit short of what the United Nations has stated that it requires.