



Según el inspector del Pentágono, los paquetes de alimentos por valor de unos pocos millones, patrocinados por el estado, podrían llegar a las organizaciones terroristas en Idlib, incluidos los terroristas del grupo Hayat Tahrir ash-Sham vinculado a Al-Qaeda. Las listas de destinatarios se han cambiado retroactivamente.

La investigación también reveló que algunos trabajadores de ONG estaban directamente afiliados con los terroristas. Como resultado de la investigación, la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional congeló el programa y los trabajadores de las ONG se retiraron del trabajo.

De hecho, gastaron varios millones de dólares de los contribuyentes para ayudar a los terroristas, ¿porque nadie hace algo?

Despite these efforts, the unstable security situation in Idlib raised the risk that combatants might divert humanitarian assistance. Since late 2017, a USAID OIG investigation uncovered numerous instances of possible or confirmed diversions to armed groups in Idlib province, including Ha'yat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS), a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.³³⁴

During one investigation, USAID OIG identified corrupt personnel who had adversely affected a \$100 million assistance program through border control and restrictions of approved vendors. Other investigations showed that procurement fraud, product substitution, ghost employees and beneficiaries, and bid rigging diverted millions of dollars of aid from intended beneficiaries. Additional information on this investigation is available in the classified appendix to this report.³³⁵

In August 2018, USAID OIG referred its findings on the risks of humanitarian assistance being diverted to armed groups in northwestern Syria to USAID and briefed senior USAID officials. These risks included systemic coercion by HTS of non-governmental organizations' employees to assist in diversions; imposition of taxes, duties, and fees on USAID implementers and beneficiaries; HTS control of local councils and IDP camp management that assist USAID implementers identify eligible beneficiaries; and implementers in some cases failing to adequately mitigate the threat to USAID programming from these armed groups.³³⁶

In response to the referral, USAID immediately suspended the activities of one cross-border implementer in HTS-controlled areas of northwestern Syria, affecting approximately \$4 million in program funds. Furthermore, USAID reported that it inserted language into new awards requiring any assistance in HTS-controlled areas to be approved in advance by USAID, affecting new awards made up until the end of September.³³⁷ More information on the investigations, findings, and actions USAID and USAID OIG are taking to prevent the diversion of assistance is provided on page 99 of this report.

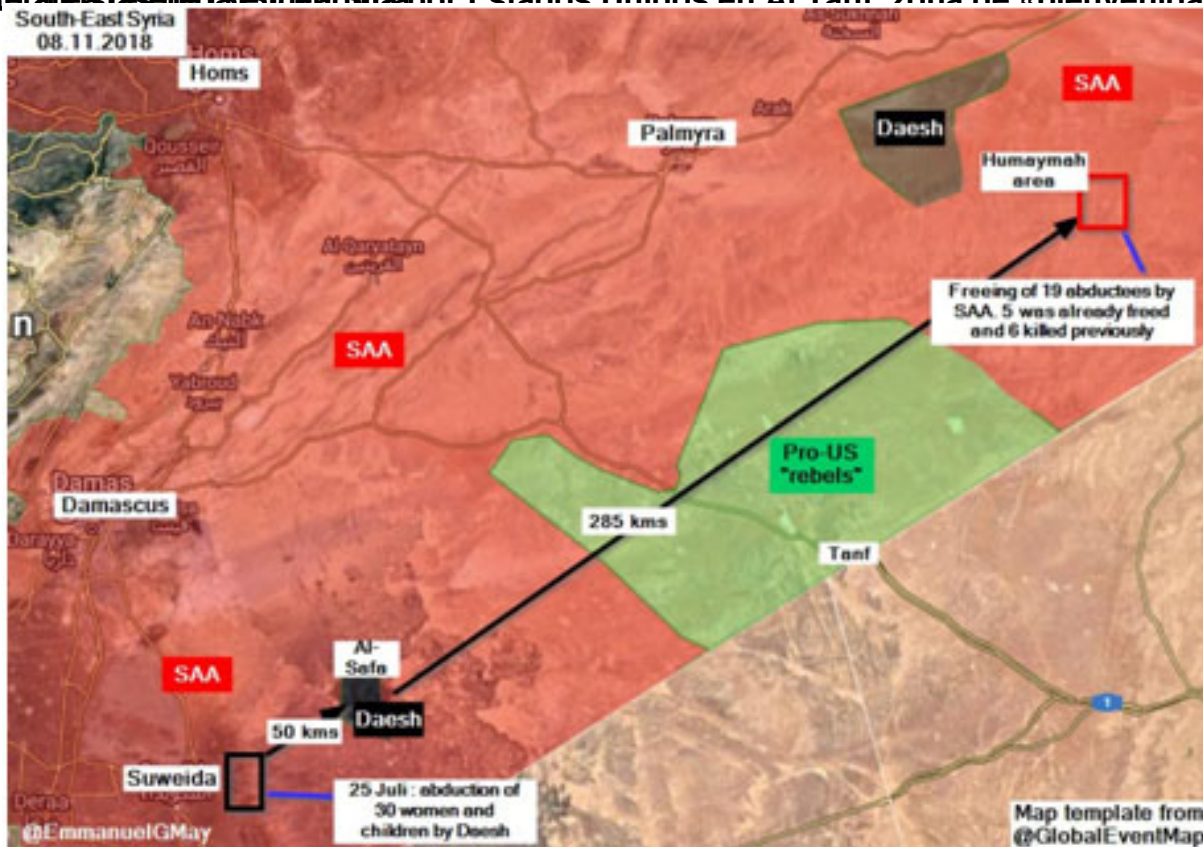
U.S. Humanitarian Assistance Funding and Staffing

As in Iraq, the U.S. Government implements humanitarian assistance activities in Syria as distinct and separate from military operations through three operating units:

- **USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)** works with UN and international non-governmental organization partners to provide support to IDPs and other conflict-affected populations.
- **USAID/Office of Food for Peace** provides food assistance to IDPs, refugees, and others in need who have been impacted by the crisis in Syria.
- **DoS/Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)** works through the United Nations and other partners to protect and support IDPs, refugees, and other conflict victims in Syria, and provides assistance to others in the surrounding countries that have been affected.³³⁸

OFDA, FFP, and PRM rely on several types of personnel to execute their work, including U.S. Government employees, personal services contractors, and independent contractors. A total of 32 personnel are assigned full-time to the Syria humanitarian assistance response, with 9 stationed in Turkey, 6 in Jordan, and the remainder in the United States (primarily

Francia, el Reino Unido y los Estados Unidos en Al Tanf, zona de «bienvenida de los



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