Syrian Arab Republic

December 2021

The decade-long crisis in Syria continues to affect millions of people, with humanitarian needs and protection risks on the rise. In certain areas the security situation is volatile and overall, the socio-economic situation is deteriorating.

According to the 2021 Needs and Response Summary, some 13.4 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated an already precarious situation.

UNHCR in Syria provides protection and assistance to refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees and stateless people based on identified needs and vulnerabilities.

KEY INDICATORS

198,134

Persons supported with core relief items

47,780

Students graduated from accelerated education programme

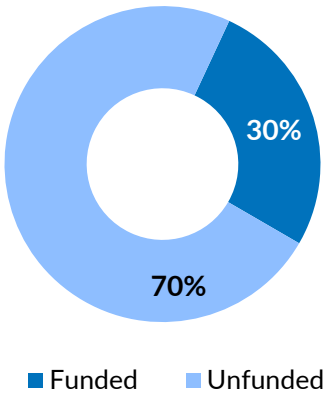
5,300

Older persons received home-based rehabilitation

FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2021)

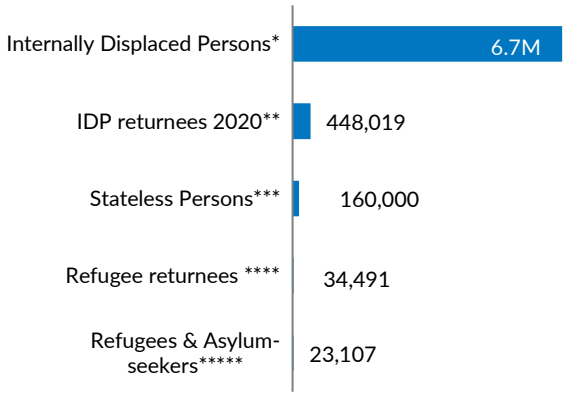
USD 628.6 million

requested for the Syria Operation in 2021



UNHCR Syria requires USD 465.2 million in 2022 to address the needs of people of concern in Syria

POPULATION OF CONCERN



Through a youth-led initiative, UNHCR and its partner opened the Sfireh club in southern rural Aleppo. The club which is managed by local community members will provide a safe place for children and youth to play sports. SSSD

** Source: OCHA, December 2020*
*** Source: OCHA, 2020*
**** Estimated*
***** Source: UNHCR verified returns as of 18 December 2021*
*****Source: UNHCR, 31 December 2021*

Operational Context

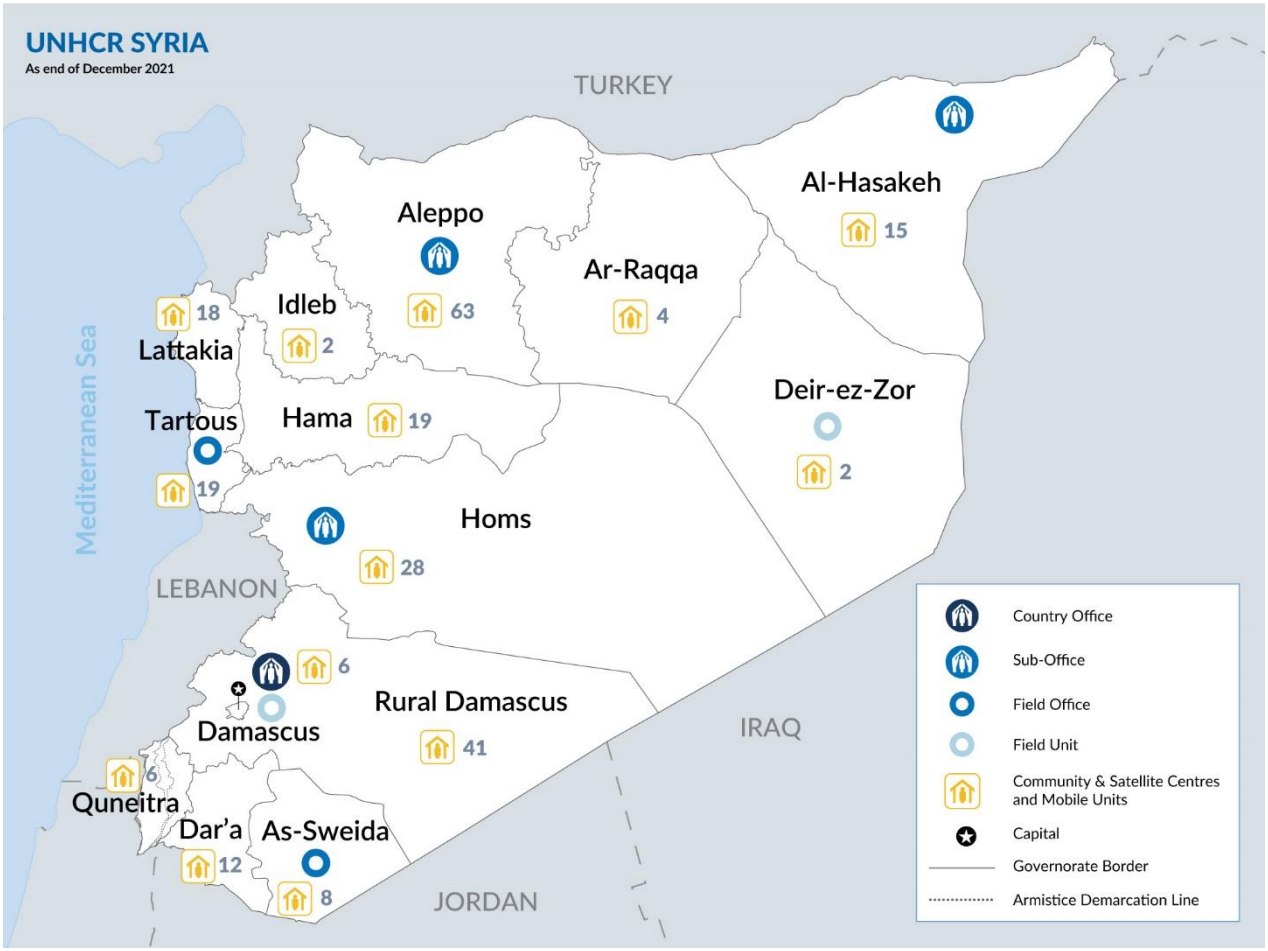
The 2021 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) puts the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria at over 13.4 million, including 6.7 million internally displaced Syrians. Of that number, approximately 5.9 million are in acute need of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR supports refugees, IDPs and returnees through targeted assistance following a community-based and area-based approach.

UNHCR works with 27 partners which include two government ministries, six international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and 19 national NGOs.

Key Achievements

Protection

In line with the community-based protection approach, UNHCR is supporting 91 community centres, 35 satellite centres and 119 mobile units, and has engaged 2,735 community outreach volunteers (ORVs) in all 14 governorates.



Community/satellite centres and mobile units in Syria as of 31 December 2021.

The community centres provide comprehensive protection-related services such as support to child protection activities, catch-up classes for children, and legal assistance benefitting IDPs, returnees, host communities and other crisis-affected individuals in all Syrian governorates. At these UNHCR-supported community centres, outreach volunteers also engage with communities to identify and address specific protection concerns by implementing small-scale community-led or livelihood projects.

In 2021, more than 1,919 community-led initiatives and youth-led initiatives have been implemented in all 14 governorates. These projects are identified by the communities and address common protection concerns and improve the well-being of the community or specific groups. The completed initiatives include installing solar lights in streets to reduce protection risks, rehabilitation of a sports yard to provide a safe area for children and youth to play, knitting wool hats and scarfs and distributing them to children to keep them warm in winter.

So far in 2021, UNHCR and partners provided home-based rehabilitation support to more than 5,300 older people. Home-based rehabilitation support includes advice on nursing care, physical rehabilitation methods, and assistance to cope with daily tasks. In addition, over 16,560 people with specific needs received medical in-kind assistance such as the provision of glucometers, sphygmomanometers, nebulizers, wheelchairs, or medical mattresses. UNHCR also provided general in-kind assistance such as water tanks, carpets, fans, and heaters to 20,296 people with specific needs in all 14 governorates.

UNHCR and partners also provided legal assistance to affected communities by enabling access to legal services, such as counselling, facilitating the registration of civil events, and supporting access to documentation. These services are especially essential to enable reintegration of returning IDPs and refugees within their communities, and to access basic services such as health and education. In 2021, UNHCR provided legal interventions before courts and administrative bodies to 30,398 IDPs, returnees and host community members, and 74,739 IDPs, returnees and host community members have been provided with legal advice.

Education

Since January 2021, UNHCR and partners provided non-formal education programmes through remedial classes and catch-up activities to 47,780 primary and secondary students at community centres. In addition, 15,486 students benefitted from the homework café in community centers and some selected public schools. Out of that number, 5,434 children were dropout students. Moreover, UNHCR through its partners supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) through the rehabilitation of 212 schools.

Children are back to Al Ghanto school in rural Homs rehabilitated by UNHCR and its partner. UNHCR/S. Sawas.

Health

Between May and end December, a total of 78 refugees (71 Iraqis, 1 Afghan, 2 Yemenis, 1 Iranian, 2 Sudanese, and 1 Somali) were reported to receive the COVID-19 vaccine under the national vaccination programme. The actual number is likely to be higher.

Since January 2021, close to 185,560 individuals benefited from primary health care services while more than 2,130 individuals were referred to secondary health care services, and some 16,870 individuals received health consultations. Through a broader community-based health approach, beneficiaries receive information on good health practices, disease prevention and support to improve their general health and well-being. In addition, more than 14,440 persons with specific needs received psycho-social counselling during the same period, while 2,976 persons with specific needs were referred to specialized mental health services.

Core Relief Items

UNHCR through its partners supports IDPs, returnees, vulnerable host community families and registered asylum-seekers with essential core relief items. A standard core relief items kit contains plastic sheets, mattresses, solar lamps, high thermal blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, and kitchen sets. In September, UNHCR started the 2021/2022 winter programme with the distribution of winter clothing, sleeping bags, and additional plastic sheets to 168,500 households. All standard core relief and winter items are intended for a family of five members. So far in 2021, UNHCR has assisted 198,134 households in all 14 governorates with core relief and winter items.

Winter assistance distribution to displaced families in As-Sweida. UNHCR/H. Abo Fakher.

Of the total number assisted, 33,149 households were living in newly accessible communities in the Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Lattakia, and Homs Governorates.

Shelter and Infrastructure

UNHCR's shelter programme comprises of the repair of damaged houses, distribution of basic shelter materials, removal of debris, and distribution of solid waste bins. UNHCR and partners also provide emergency shelter support for displaced people and individuals, either in protracted situations or newly displaced. This includes the rehabilitation of collective shelters, the distribution of materials such as timber, plastic and MDF sheets for minor shelter repairs, and damaged buildings upgrade.

UNHCR and its partner rehabilitated an irrigation channel in Maskaneh, rural Aleppo. The channel will enable farmers to re-plant their lands. UNHCR/H. Maarouf.

Between January and December 2021, UNHCR distributed over 11,000 tents in eight formal and informal camps in north-east Syria in Al Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and east Deir-ez-zor Governorates as part of the regular replacement of emergency shelters in camps. The replacement of the old and damaged tents aims to improve the shelter situation of the families to withstand the harsh weather situation, especially the summer windstorms. UNHCR also carries out care and maintenance of basic infrastructure in camps such as road repair, installation of lighting for roads and WASH facilities.

In addition, 44,560 individuals benefitted from regular programme activities in Rural Damascus, through removing 196,000 cubic meters of debris in Rural Damascus, and 3,805 individuals benefitted from repairing 771 damaged houses in Lattakia, Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus with related common areas such as staircase, lateral connection to infrastructure, as well as distribution and installation of 4,673 shelter material kits in Rural Damascus, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, and Aleppo.

Collective shelter rehabilitation supported 3,251 individuals in 12 collective shelters in Lattakia, Homs, and Hama. Moreover, 461 shelter kits were distributed in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa.

Water, hygiene, and sanitation projects supported 125,950 individuals in return areas through the distribution of 380 solid waste bins, sewage repair and water networks, flood prevention, and borehole rehabilitation.

A total of 1,225 solar streetlight devices with related pillars and concrete bases are being installed in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, and Deir-ez-Zor to provide protection in affected areas.

UNHCR and its partner also completed the rehabilitation of a Civil Registry centre in the old city of Aleppo. The centre will help over 600,000 individuals to obtain their legal documents. Eight more civil registries are being rehabilitated to serve 1,200,000 individuals.

As part of COVID-19 shelter response, eight IDP and refugee camps as well as 120 collective shelters were supported by fumigation, sterilization for the benefit of 129,500 individuals.

Assistance to Refugees

Registration

Registration and providing documentation are key to ensuring the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria such as enabling them to access basic rights like freedom of movement and access to assistance. End-December, there were 23,107 registered refugees (14,316) and asylum-seekers (8,791) in Syria.

In December, UNHCR renewed identification cards for 1,824 individuals. This brought to 26,387, the total number of refugees and asylum-seekers whose identification cards were renewed this year. These documents provide protection against refoulement, ensure access to basic rights and assistance, and facilitate freedom of movement. Most registered refugees originate from Iraq and reside primarily in urban areas in Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Homs and Qamishli governorates. Of the total number of registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Syria, 20,163 individuals have been biometrically enrolled. This represents 90 per cent of the registered population above three-years-old qualified for the iris (biometric) enrolment.

Refugee status determination (RSD)

UNHCR uses its refugee status determination procedures to help asylum-seekers realize their rights under international law. Since May 2021, UNHCR has been piloting the alternative approach to in-person interviews to ensure that access to refugee-status determination

procedures for persons of concern continue with COVID-19 preventative measures in place. Cases are processed remotely with caseworkers and individuals communicating via secured video-conferencing tools in UNHCR premises. Interview rooms are fitted with all the necessary ICT equipment, COVID compliant personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectants.

Between January and December, 90 cases comprising 180 individuals were interviewed. In addition, 68 assessed cases comprising 100 individuals were submitted to reviewers by case workers. To date, 96 cases comprising 191 individuals have been reviewed. Of that number, 48 cases comprising 96 individuals from Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan were recognized as refugees enabling them to receive cash assistance and to access additional health services.

Resettlement

UNHCR maintained effective communication with persons of concern through weekly counselling over a dedicated hotline. In 2021, 927 individuals were counselled about their resettlement cases - providing accurate information and managing people's expectations in relation to resettlement.

Furthermore, UNHCR provided over-the-hotline counselling to people of concern seeking individual counselling regarding resettlement.

UNHCR Syria is in the process of arranging to facilitate the departure of three refugee families comprising 16 individuals to Canada under resettlement or complementary pathways. UNHCR Syria is following up on the entire arrangement of this movement in close coordination with its partner SARC, IOM Lebanon and the external medical clinic. UNHCR Syria is also conducting review of resettlement cases that are accepted and pending departure to the United Kingdom to flag vulnerable profiles that are suitable for expedited departure.

UNHCR continues to pursue resettlement and complementary pathways potentials through partnerships and advocacy for quotas with actors to provide durable solutions to persons of concern. UNHCR also carried on providing refugees and family members with counselling regarding family reunification.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

UNHCR provides multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to the most vulnerable refugee families. UNHCR enrols families for MPCG assistance on a bi-monthly basis and beneficiaries' continued eligibility is reviewed every two months. Vulnerability is determined either through a scoring system based on demographics, special needs, or a panel review of individual protection risks. UNHCR targets approximately 86 per cent of registered refugee families with the cash grant, which is delivered via a cash-over-the-counter modality. Each family of three receives monthly 299,000 Syrian pounds (approximately USD 119). A total of 1,900 refugee households comprising 5,029 individuals benefitted from the November and December MPCG. Additionally, a one-time winterization grant was provided to 2,203 refugee families/5,717 individuals with a total amount of USD 883,011.

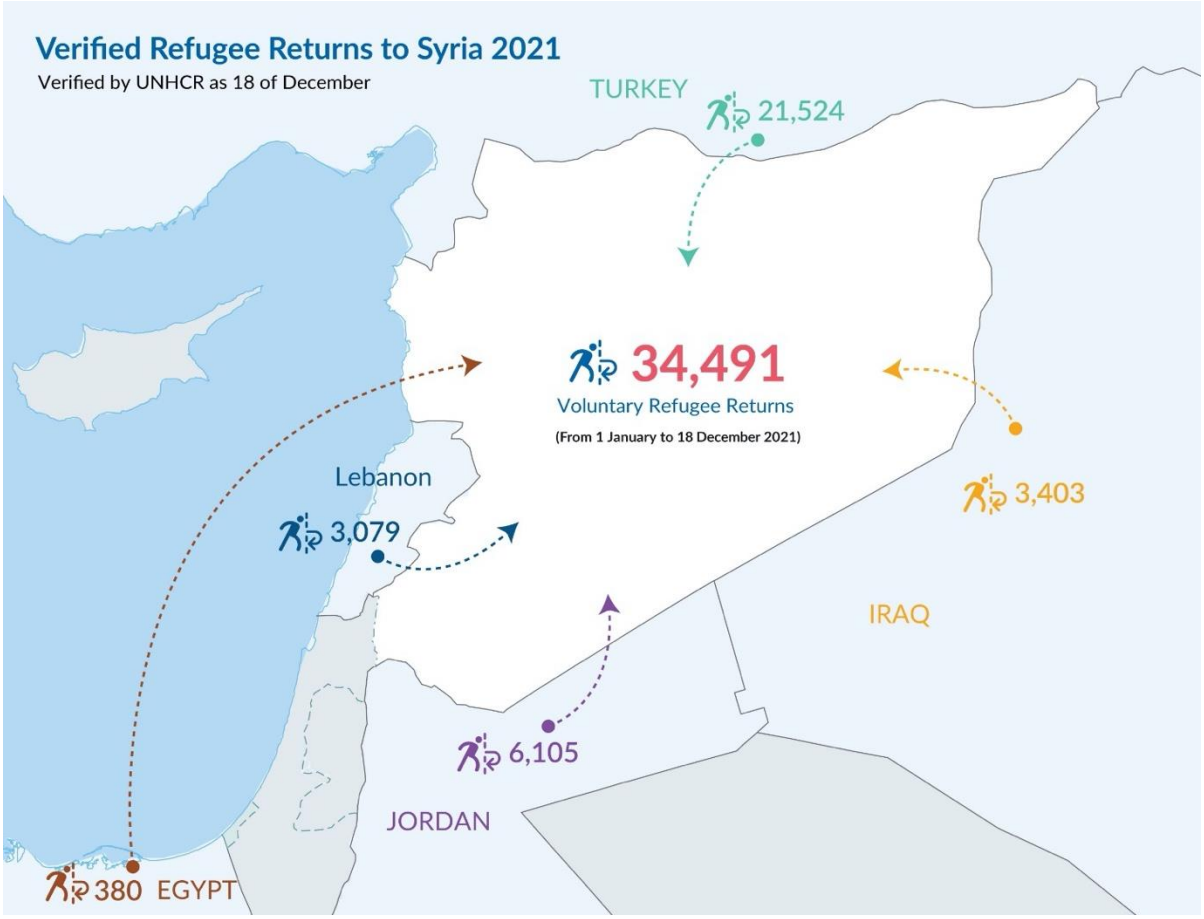
In December 2021, 1,665 refugee families/4,788 individuals were assisted with the total amount of USD 381,101. Also 1,949 families/5,435 individuals benefitted from the winterization grants with a total amount of USD 790,209.

Between January and December 2021, UNHCR cumulatively assisted 4,556 refugee households/ 12,873 individuals with the multi-purpose cash grant as well as 4,152 refugee families/ 11,152 individuals with one- time winterization grant.

In addition, between September and December, UNHCR provided 1,955 refugee households of 4,216 individuals with scholarship pocket money of around 152,500 Syrian pounds (approximately USD 61) for each primary school student and 212,500 Syrian pounds (USD 85) for those enrolled in secondary school.

Refugee Returns

In December, UNHCR verified 1,542 individuals as Syrian refugee returnees from Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Egypt. This brought the total number of returnees in 2021 to 34,491 individuals (as of 18 December). In 2020, UNHCR verified the return of 38,235 individual refugees mainly from Turkey, Iraq, and Lebanon.



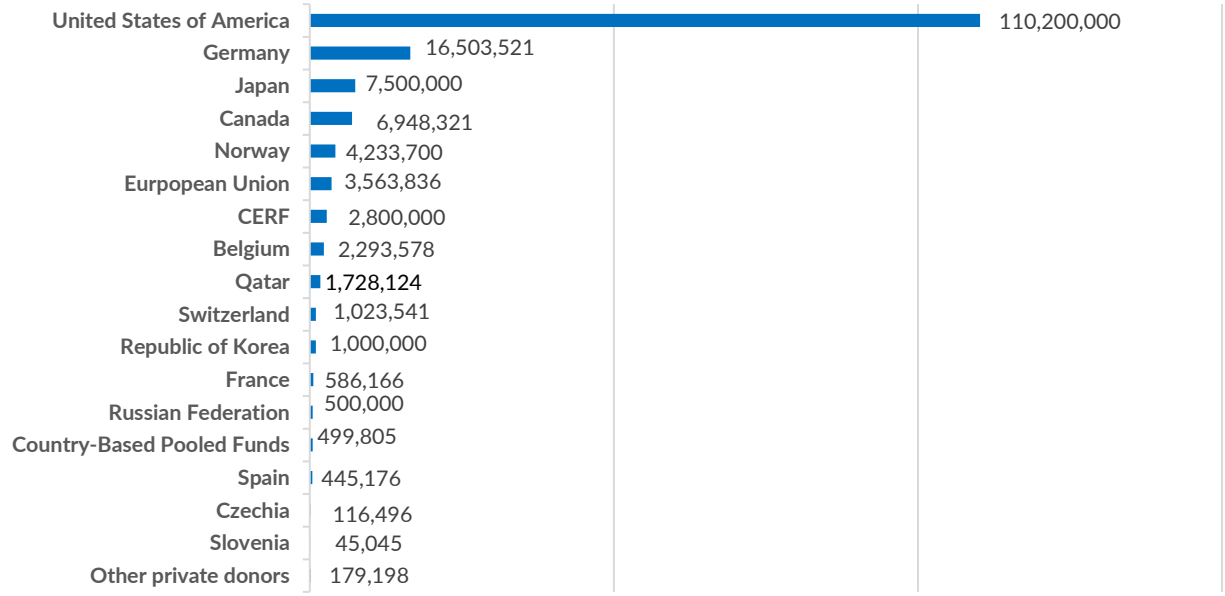
Financial Information

As of 29 December 2021

UNHCR Syria is grateful to all donors for the critical support provided with earmarked and unearmarked funding.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US$ 190,103,220**
as of 29 December 2021



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 29.7 million | United States of America 22.1 million | Private donors Australia 11.1 million | Private donors Germany 10.6 million | Denmark 8 million | Sweden 7.1 million | Finland 6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 4.7 million | Japan 2.9 million | Norway 2.3 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Norway 80 million | Private donors Spain 75.9 million | Sweden 75.4 million | United Kingdom 40.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 38.8 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Japan 30.9 million | Germany 26 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Private donors Italy 19.6 million | Private donors Sweden 16.9 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million | Private donors USA 10.6 million

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