

MONITORING OF RUSSIA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

trends and challenges
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RUSSIAN HUMANITARIAN AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN H1 2025

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In 2025, Russia actively participated in providing humanitarian aid to various countries around the world. The geography of the aid provided covered regions such as the African Sahel, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and the CIS countries. Humanitarian cooperation was also carried out through international organizations such as the International Red Cross. The key issue in the field of humanitarian aid remains its effectiveness. One of the main areas for this is the development of cooperation with the private sector in this field.

General description of humanitarian aid provided

According to UN data, 305 million people will need humanitarian aid in 2025.¹ In 2025, Russia continued to provide humanitarian aid to various countries as part of international development assistance programs. Humanitarian operations included both bilateral cooperation and interaction with international organizations. The main areas of humanitarian aid provided are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Main areas of humanitarian cooperation between Russia and other countries
in 2025

Region	Form of aid	Aid volume
Burkina Faso	Food aid	709.5 t
Niger	Wheat	Up to 20000 t
Zimbabwe, Central African Republic (CAR)	Peas, oil, diesel fuel	1000 t
Myanmar	Rescue operations, medical assistance	Airplanes, dog teams, mobile clinics
Through the International Red Cross	Support for refugees and family reunification	48000 people

Source: own compilation.

1 UN. 04.12.2024. URL: <https://news.un.org/ru/story/2024/12/1458996>

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Bilateral humanitarian operations

Geographically, most of the humanitarian aid programs were implemented in African countries. Between December 2024 and January 2025, 559 tons of peas were sent to Zimbabwe and about 29,400 tons of diesel fuel to the Central African Republic. In May 2025, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced the allocation of 709.5 tons of peas to Burkina Faso. Twenty thousand tons of wheat were also transferred to Niger. These measures were a continuation of the 2024 food initiative, under which African countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Somalia, and the CAR) were allocated approximately 200,000 tons of wheat as humanitarian aid.¹ These humanitarian supplies are part of a comprehensive plan for economic cooperation between the countries of the Sahel region and Russia.²

In March 2025, humanitarian aid was provided to Myanmar after an earthquake there. Russia sent two planes with 120 rescuers, including medical personnel, drone teams, and mobile clinics to the country. International humanitarian aid was provided in cooperation with China, India, and other countries.³

Russia was Syria's largest humanitarian partner during the military conflict in the country in 2017–2024, as well as in early 2025. The total volume of aid to Syria during this period amounted to more than 174 tons of cargo (*Table 2*).

Table 2

Main forms of humanitarian assistance to Syria in 2017–2025.

Form of humanitarian aid	Aid volume (ton)	Type of aid
Food	80.0	Wheat, rice, flour, processed foods
Medical aid	40.0	Medicines, vaccines, mobile hospitals
Construction materials	25.0	Tents, building blocks, tools
Fuel and energy	15.0	Diesel fuel, generators
Education and social assistance	10.0	School supplies, study materials

Sources: Data is based on reports from the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations and UN statistics.

In June 2025, humanitarian aid in the form of 30,000 tons of wheat was sent to Palestine.⁴

Russia remains active in the humanitarian sphere in the CIS region. For example, under the auspices of Rossotrudnichestvo, on July 31 of this year, humanitarian aid in the amount of 140 tons for 30,000 displaced persons was provided to displaced persons from Artsakh living in Armenia. It included food packages and personal hygiene items.⁵

1 Russia Continues Humanitarian Food Aid to Africa. 23.05.2025. URL: https://russiaspivottoasia.com/russia-continues-humanitarian-food-aid-to-africa/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

2 Humanitarian Leverage: Russia's Strategic Deployment of Aid in Global Power Politics. Hornreview. 05.05.2025. URL: https://hornreview.org/2025/05/05/humanitarian-leverage-russias-strategic-deployment-of-aid-in-global-power-politics/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

3 AP News (2025) Latest news: countries providing humanitarian aid after the earthquake in Myanmar. 29.03.2025. URL: <https://apnews.com/article/thailand-myanmar-earthquake-latest-rescue-4069e6865c131848968a118644350284>

4 On Russian humanitarian aid to Palestine. Russian Mission to the Palestinian National Authority. 12.06.2025. URL: https://pna.mid.ru/ru/novosti/o_rossiyskoy_gumanitarnoy_pomoshchi_palestine/

5 NEWS.AM. 140 tons of aid for displaced persons from Artsakh: a large-scale humanitarian project has been launched in Armenia. 31.07.2025. URL: <https://news.am/>

Russian humanitarian aid to other countries in H1 2025

Multilateral humanitarian cooperation

Humanitarian cooperation also took place through international organizations such as the International Red Cross. In particular, the International Red Cross provided humanitarian support to Ukrainian refugees in Russia. In particular, by the end of 2024, the Russian and International Red Cross had provided humanitarian assistance to more than 48,000 refugees.¹

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The central issue in the field of humanitarian aid is its effectiveness. One of the most obvious channels for increasing its effectiveness remains cooperation with the private sector. However, practices of this kind of cooperation are quite rare in Russia. Among Russian companies that have participated in humanitarian operations, only PJSC RUSAL, PJSC Gazprom, and PJSC Lukoil. The main barrier remains the lack of information and clear channels of communication with the authorities. It seems possible to expand opportunities for cooperation by including logistics and pharmaceutical companies in humanitarian projects, as well as insuring project risks, taking into account the specifics of cooperation with partner countries.

Cooperation with the private sector in humanitarian operations can become a flexible tool for cooperation with a wider range of stakeholders on the ground. Large private companies can also assist in the formation of innovative centers for research on humanitarian cooperation issues.

Such competitive advantages could potentially help fill the gaps left in humanitarian aid after USAID programs were cut by more than 83%. This is particularly relevant for African countries, where new Russian geopolitical interests are emerging.² ▲

1 The ICRC will support Russian Red Cross projects under the 2025 Cooperation Agreement. 30.01.2025. URL: https://www.redcross.ru/en/news/icrc-to-support-russian-red-cross-projects-under-2025-cooperation-agreement/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

2 R. Dixon. (2025) Trump's global funding cuts leave a void in Africa for rivals to exploit. The Washington Post. 24.03.2024. URL: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/03/23/trump-aid-cuts-africa-russia-china/?utm_source=chatgpt.com