



# Syria crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

## Facts & Figures

(as of 17.11.14)

Estimated number of in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria:  
**12.2 million**

In hard to reach/besieged areas:  
**4.7 million**

Estimated number of internally displaced:  
**7.6 million**  
(UNOCHA)

**50% of all IDPs in Syria are children**

Number of refugees - registered & awaiting registration:  
**3 211 992**

- Lebanon: **1 140 120**
- Turkey: **1 065 902**
- Jordan: **618 420**
- Iraq: **223 923**
- Egypt & North Africa: **1** (UNHCR)

### EU funding

Total (Commission and Member States):  
**€ 3 billion**

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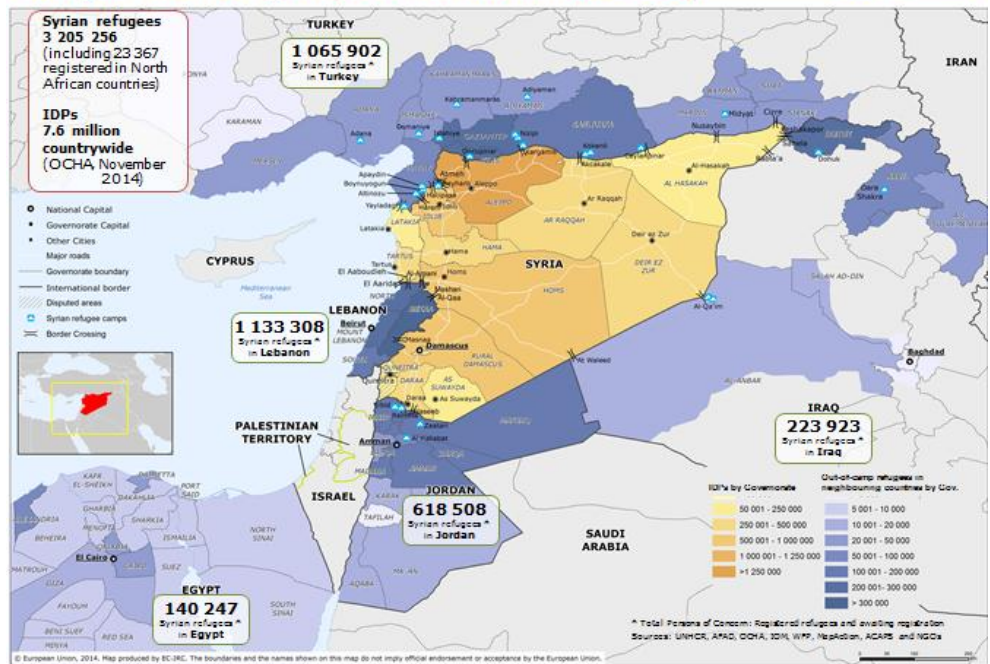
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## Syria Crisis – Internal displaced persons and Syrian refugees in the region (as of 12 November 2014)



## Key messages

- The Syrian conflict has caused the **world's largest humanitarian and security disaster**. Humanitarian needs and displacement continue to increase. An entire generation of children has been exposed to war, violence and death, and has been deprived of basic freedoms, protection and education.
- The EU, with its Member States, is leading the international response. Around **€3 billion have been mobilised for relief and recovery assistance** to Syrians inside their country as well as to refugees and their host communities.
- Through advocacy at the highest levels the EU calls for the **respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)** and the protection of civilians, especially children and women. The appalling killings of humanitarian workers in recent weeks strengthen the call to all parties to ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel.
- The EU welcomes the approval of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2165 on the **delivery of humanitarian assistance in Syria**. The EU calls for its expedient and full implementation, and for unhindered and safe access for aid delivery throughout Syria, as defined by UNSCR 2139.
- The EU appeals for the **prompt lifting of sieges throughout Syria** and the implementation of "humanitarian pauses" by all sides to allow delivery of humanitarian aid and medical care to reach all people in need.

### Humanitarian situation

**The humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate** with high levels of violence and conflict increasing in recent weeks. The progression of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) across large areas of northern Syria has caused population movements, with reports of grave violations of human rights in areas under their control. Hostilities have damaged and destroyed emergency field hospitals, schools, water and electricity services in densely populated areas where local communities and internally displaced people reside. The total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria has reached 10.8 million, approximately 7.6 million of whom are internally displaced. This is the largest number of internally displaced in any country in the world. Civilians continue to be the primary victims of the conflict, with reports of rape and sexual violence, enforced disappearances, forcible displacement, recruitment of child soldiers, summary executions and deliberate shelling of civilian targets. **International airstrikes** against a series of targeted positions in areas controlled by ISIL and other armed groups began on 22 September, causing some displacement of the civilian population.

### Major challenges

The **magnitude of humanitarian needs is overwhelming** in all parts of the country. Treating and evacuating the wounded, providing water, sanitation and hygiene, health, shelter and food assistance, are the main priorities. Protection remains of utmost concern, with very serious allegations of abuses reported against women and children, adding to the persistent reports of indiscriminate killings and extra-judicial arrests. Food prices continue to rise dramatically and the availability of food stocks in many parts of Syria is at risk. There are increasing reports that the populations in areas under siege are at the point of starvation. With 10 million people in need of shelter the approach of winter presents additional shelter needs. The winter season brings additional health risks (e.g. acute respiratory infections), higher fuel prices, and restricted access to treatment and care as a result of security concerns and lack of health centres. Children and the elderly are most at risk.

In the area of **health**, the long-lasting consequences of the conflict have left many without access to basic medical care. Reports estimate that more Syrians die due to health complications as a result of inadequate health care services than as a direct consequence of the violence. Medical facilities continue to be targeted by aerial bombardments, resulting in fatalities and destruction of facilities. In August alone, the deaths of 21 medical personnel was documented.

**Humanitarian access** continues to be extremely limited, made worse by the intense fighting and shifting conflict lines. Adding to this, heavy administrative procedures are hindering the delivery of aid. Delivery of essential medical supplies and equipment, especially in opposition-controlled areas, is often blocked. Delivering aid in besieged and hard to reach areas is particularly difficult. A recent report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 states that as many as 4.7 million



people are residing in areas that are difficult or impossible for humanitarian actors to reach, with 241,000 of these people residing in besieged areas.

Concerns about **security and safety of humanitarian personnel** remain as high as ever in all parts of Syria, with ambulances and UN vehicles regularly attacked and humanitarian workers kidnapped. Across the border the security situation in Lebanon and especially Iraq has further deteriorated over the past few weeks.

**The number of refugees** fleeing Syria has now reached a staggering 3.2 million. The UN agency for refugees (UNHCR) has declared its Syria operation the largest in the agency's 64-year history. The sustained influx of Syrians is increasing the burden on host communities and fuelling tensions in some areas. Countries bordering Syria are approaching a dangerous saturation point, particularly **Lebanon** where there are over 1.1 million refugees. In Lebanon, shelter remains a serious concern for the vast majority of refugee families, while there are increasing reports of housing evictions. In **Iraq**, where 95% of Syrian refugees reside in the Kurdish Region, there are growing concerns about the capacity of the local government, communities and humanitarian organisations, following the recent internal displacement in the country. Recent reports indicate that approximately 4 000-5 000 persons in dire conditions are currently in the no man's land between the **Jordan** and Syria as a result of Jordan's stringent border controls. In **Turkey**, UNHCR reports that more than 1 million Syrians have taken refuge in the country since the outbreak of the crisis in 2011, although this figure is likely to be much higher as many Syrian do not register with the Turkish authorities. Since 19 September, over 170,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Turkey since the ISIL military offensive on the Kurdish enclave of Ayn al-Arab/Kobani.

## The European Union's Humanitarian Response

### Funding

The EU continues to lead the international response to the Syria crisis with around €3 billion of total budget mobilised by the Commission and Member States collectively in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance.

At the UN General Assembly in September 2014, the **European Commission announced an additional €50 million in humanitarian funding** to respond to the needs of the victims of the Syrian crisis. This further allocation brings the 2014 European Commission humanitarian aid budget for Syria to €150 million, and brings the total humanitarian contribution since the beginning of the conflict to €665 million. This funding is aimed at addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable affected persons in Syria and neighbouring countries, notably the expansion of healthcare and water supply services.

The UN appeal for 2014, the largest UN humanitarian appeal ever with \$6 billion which combined the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP6, \$2.28 billion) and Syrian Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP6 \$3.74 billion), is still heavily under-funded





## Coordination with humanitarian partners

On 23 September, the **European Union co-hosted with Jordan and the UK a ministerial meeting on Syria**, in the margins of the 68<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from national governments and the international development and humanitarian communities in a **strategic dialogue on the evolving crisis in Syria**. The event generated over \$1 billion of new funding for the crisis response.

## Examples of EU funded relief projects



In partnership with **World Food Programme (WFP)** and **Action Contre La Faim, Spain (ACF)**, ECHO is providing food assistance inside **Syria** reaching up to 4 million people per month. There is a need for access to safe water and ECHO through its support to **UNICEF** is providing adequate supply to the communities affected by the conflict, with a specific focus on hard to reach areas. Photo credit: WFP

The majority of Syrian refugees don't live in camps but in poverty-affected 'pockets' in neighbouring countries. Up to 80% of the over 600 000 registered Syrian refugees in **Jordan** have to pay for rent every month despite the lack of official permit to access livelihood opportunities. Together with partners like **ICMC**, **Save the Children** and **CARE**, ECHO is helping vulnerable families with cash rent assistance, protecting them from evictions. Photo credit: STC/Hedinn Halldorsson



Since September 2014, a massive influx of nearly 200 000 refugees fled from the Syrian town Ayn Al Arab (Kobane in Kurdish) to Suruç district in southern **Turkey**. ECHO is supporting delivery of emergency aid including food security, various emergency kits, portable latrines and showers, as well as essential medical supplies, through **IMC**, **Concern**, **Relief International**, **DRC**, **Care**, in strong partnership with local NGOs. ECHO also ensures that assistance continues to reach vulnerable refugee families as part of its emergency response programme. Photo credit: ECHO partners

National and international NGOs are responding to the needs of over one million Syrian refugees in **Lebanon** where there are no official camps. Almost all refugees pay for rent, even if half of them live in very poor shelter such as garages and tents. ECHO supports the **Norwegian Refugee Council's** Information, Counselling, and Legal Assistance (ICLA) outreach program which aims to ease relations between landlord and lessee to avoid abuse and eviction. The ICLA provide refugees with up-to-date legal information. Photo credit: NRC/Sam Tarling



In **Iraq**, ECHO is funding the **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** to provide shelter support vouchers for 1 970 households living in urban settings of Erbil. These vouchers are redeemable at local vendors and can be used to purchase shelter and water and sanitation materials for basic repairs to the shelters, as well as non-food-items such as kerosene heaters, bedding and small household appliances. NRC will also distribute a winterization kit to 1050 households in Erbil governorate. Photo credit: ECHO/Caroline Gluck



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