



Syrian crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria: **13.5 million**

In hard to reach/besieged areas:
4.9 million
(OCHA/HNO 2017)

Estimated number of internally displaced:
6.3 million
(UNOCHA)

Number of refugees - registered: (UNHCR)
Total : 5,031,622
• Lebanon: **1 011 366**
• Turkey: **2,973,980**
• Jordan: **659,246**
• Iraq: **236,672**
• Egypt & North Africa: **150,258**
(Source : UNHCR, Government of Turkey)

EU funding

Total (Commission and Member States):
Over **€ 9.4 billion**. In addition, **3.7 billion EUR** has been pledged by the EU and Member States in the Brussels conference in April 2017

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* All the latest ECHO Factsheets:
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Zaatari camp in Jordan is the largest Syrian refugee camp, hosting around 80.000 refugees – Peter Biro/EU/ECHO

Key messages

- Entering its seventh year of conflict, Syria has triggered the **world's largest humanitarian crisis since World War II**. Internal displacements of population persist and number of refugees has passed the 5-million mark as fighting continues in the country.
- The European Union and its Member States are collectively lead providers of international aid. More than **€ 9.4 billion has been mobilised for humanitarian, stabilisation and resilience assistance** to support Syrians inside the country and in neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey¹ and Egypt. **A further € 3.7 billion for 2017** has been pledged together by the EU and its Member States at the **Brussels conference in April 2017** representing nearly 67% of the pledges.
- The European Commission is funding humanitarian programmes implemented by its humanitarian partners who **provide millions of people with principled humanitarian assistance** including protection, food, safe drinking water, non-food items, shelter, and emergency medical treatments.
- **The EU calls for the respect of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL)** and condemns its continued violations. Respect by all parties to an unhindered, unconditioned, rapid and safe access is essential to deliver effective humanitarian aid.

¹ For more information about ECHO's activities in Turkey and Iraq, please consult relevant factsheets

Humanitarian situation

In 2017, the conflict continues unabated in all parts of Syria, where civilians are subject to on-going attacks, and public infrastructures remain constantly bombed. The situation has been worsening in places like Rural Damascus (Eastern Ghouta, Qaboun, Jobar...), Idlib, Daraa, Aleppo, Homs and Raqqqa. Intense fightings are triggering new needs and displacements, with difficult access and capacity to respond in a timely and effective manner, posing a major challenge to the humanitarian workers.

The Syrian population is highly vulnerable with **13.5 million of people in need of humanitarian assistance**; of these, 6.3 million are internally displaced and 4.9 million live in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. Civilians continue to be the primary victims of the conflict.

Rape and sexual violence, enforced disappearances, forcible displacement, recruitment of child soldiers, summary executions and deliberate targeting of civilian places and infrastructure essential for people's survival have become commonplace.

To date, forced displacements continue with local agreements resulting in transfers of armed groups' combatants and civilians. **Parties to the conflict continue to carry out widespread and systematic violations of IHL, with children and women particularly susceptible to abuse and exploitation.** Most recent cases are the chemical weapon attacks on Khan Sheikhoun on April 4 which killed at least 87 people, and the bomb blast in Rashidin on April 15 which killed at least 126 people in an attack near buses carrying evacuees from the two besieged government-held towns of Foua and Kefraya, in Idlib province. Attacks on health infrastructures and staff are frequently reported as well as continuous indiscriminate bombing.

Protection issues remain of high concern: detention is reportedly still a risk for many IDPs staying in different temporary sites, with risk of large presence of munitions and UXOs in public places and residential areas. Besides, lack of civil documentation, family separation, widespread traumatization and high prevalence of persons with special needs are also of important protection concerns.

On May 4, Russia, Turkey and Iran agreed in a memorandum to establish four separate de-escalation zones in Syria for at least six months. Although one objective of these zones would be to create the conditions for humanitarian access, medical assistance, the return of displaced civilians to their homes and the restoration of damaged infrastructure, the guarantees have not yet been provided.

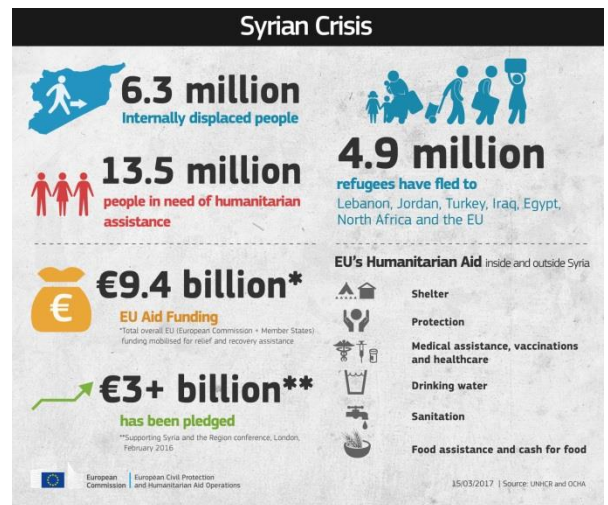
Last ceasefire agreement that entered into effect on 30 December 2016 had not resulted in an expansion of access for humanitarian assistance and personnel, that could have helped mitigate the seriously deteriorated living conditions for populations in both government and opposition-controlled areas.

Major challenges

Access remain the major challenge as the cessation of hostilities agreements and the renewal of the UNSC resolutions above mentioned have not yet resulted in a substantive expansion of access for humanitarian assistance and personnel.

The **magnitude of humanitarian needs is overwhelming** in all parts of Syria. The main priorities are treating the wounded and sick, providing food aid, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter. Prices of basic commodities have been rising and the availability of food stocks in many parts of Syria is at risk. Shelter needs are prevalent with **more than 11 million people having fled their homes**

In the area of **health**, the long-lasting consequences of the conflict include shortages of qualified medical personnel and life-saving medicines as well as the destruction of health infrastructure, leaving many without access to basic medical care. Medical facilities have been targeted by aerial bombardments, resulting in fatalities and destruction of facilities. Impeding the delivery of essential medical supplies, equipment and treatment has been used as a weapon of war.



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Refugees from Syria are now the largest refugee population from a single conflict. At the beginning of May 2017, more than 5 **million Syrian** have been registered as refugees in neighbouring countries and the wider region. The numbers have reached dangerous saturation points in countries bordering Syria, particularly **Lebanon** which has, along with Jordan, the largest per capita refugee population in the world. **Turkey** is currently hosting about 2.9 million Syrian refugees, registering the largest number of Syrian refugees in one country in the world.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The **€445 million** EU humanitarian assistance to the Syria crisis **for 2016, as well as the allocation of €280 million for 2017** (without Turkey), will continue addressing the needs inside Syria as well as the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries.

Inside **Syria** the EU humanitarian assistance is responding to emergency crises throughout the country, working from all humanitarian hubs. Almost half of the Commission's humanitarian assistance goes to immediate life-saving and emergency humanitarian operations. In addition, the assistance includes the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, provisions of food, child protection activities and emergency items. Thanks to the EU humanitarian aid, only in Syria some 2 million people have gained access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene items, more than 850 000 have received food, 1 million have received non-food items and shelter, and 350 000 children have been covered by child protection programmes, thousands out of school children are supported with education in emergency programmes.

At an operational level, the EU has been working tirelessly with humanitarian partners, including the UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International non-governmental organisations, to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The EU maintains a strong emergency response capacity from all hubs (such as Damascus, Gaziantep and Amman) of intervention in identified locations inside Syria, such as Idleb and Hama, East Ghouta, Raqqa, Deir Ez Zor and Hassakeh as well Da'ra in Southern governorates. The response includes prepositioning of stocks and contingency planning are being established in order to respond to foreseen deterioration of humanitarian situation and to anticipate new population movements.

The EU has been advocating for the access and protection of civilians all over Syria and will continue to do so. In March 2017 The European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have adopted a **Joint Communication proposing a forward- looking EU strategy for Syria**. The Communication also looks into how the EU can continue its assistance to over 13.5 million people in need in Syria, help building resilience and stability in the country, and supporting post-agreement reconstruction and the voluntary, dignified and safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons once a credible political transition is underway.

In **Lebanon**, EU humanitarian funding has contributed to cash assistance for the most vulnerable refugees, secondary healthcare for lifesaving cases, non-formal education and shelter -including water, hygiene and sanitation- to improve the living conditions of the vulnerable families mostly affected by the displacement. Protection remains a fundamental sector where partners conduct regular monitoring of the main protection concerns and provides awareness, counselling and legal assistance to the refugee population. Since 2012, the EU's humanitarian aid to Lebanon has been reaching around **750.000 Syrian refugees**. For 2016, EU humanitarian funding amounted to €87M and €85M for 2017.

In **Jordan**, the EU supports the provision of humanitarian assistance to 650.000 Syrian refugees present in the country. The EU supports the most vulnerable refugees through cash assistance and has been partnering with international organisations in several sectors like protection, health, winterization and basic needs. Specific programmes support women and children's needs, since approximately 52% of these refugees are children and 51 % are women. In 2016, the €53M of EU humanitarian funding also targeted the emergency needs of more than 45.000 refugees stranded along the North-Eastern border. In 2017, the total allocation for Jordan is € 55 Million.

In **Egypt**, the ongoing humanitarian operations amount to €4M and target the most in need out of the 120 000 Syrian registered refugees or awaiting registration in the country according to UNHCR. The European Union supports the most refugees living in substandard conditions in urban context through protection, health and education in emergency assistance.