



Syria 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:
4.5 million

Estimated number of internally displaced:
6.5 million
(UNOCHA)

Number of refugees - registered & awaiting registration: **4,598,594**

- Lebanon: **1 069 111**
- Turkey: **2 503 549**
- Jordan: **636 482**
- Iraq: **245 022**
- Egypt & North Africa: **117 658**
(UNHCR)

EU funding

Total (Commission and Member States):
Over € 5 billion

In addition,
over **€3 billion** pledged
at the London conference



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Key messages

- The Syria conflict has triggered the **world's largest humanitarian crisis since World War II**. Humanitarian needs continue to rise, population displacements are increasing, and an entire generation of children is being exposed to war and violence, increasingly deprived of basic services, education and protection.
- The European Union and its Member States collectively are leading the international response. More than **€5 billion have been mobilised for relief and recovery assistance** to Syrians in their country and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. In addition, the EU has pledged €3 billion at the 'Supporting Syria' conference held in London.
- Through its humanitarian partners, the European Commission is supporting **humanitarian programmes which provide millions of people with life-saving assistance including food and safe drinking water, non-food items, shelter, emergency medical treatments and protection**.
- The EU calls for the respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the protection of civilians, especially children and women, and condemns all indiscriminate attacks on civilians by all parties of the conflict. The EU also calls for all parties to the conflict to allow unhindered and sustained humanitarian access, across conflict lines as well as borders, to ensure safe delivery of humanitarian aid and medical care to all people in need.

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Humanitarian situation

The humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate in Syria with intensified fighting, high levels of violence, widespread disregard for the rules of international law and the obligation to protect civilians Syria, and gross human rights abuses committed by all parties. The active conflict is increasingly hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid especially in Northern Syria: supply roads are often disrupted or closed and humanitarian organisations have been forced to downscale or suspend operations in several areas due to insecurity.

Because of the dire winter conditions, the population's vulnerability has increased and 13.5 million of people are in great need of humanitarian assistance: 6.5 million are displaced, 4.6 million people in hard-to-reach areas, including over 480 000 besieged. 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 shelling of civilian targets have become commonplace.

Major challenges

The **magnitude of humanitarian needs is overwhelming** in all parts of the country. The main priorities are treating and evacuating the wounded, providing food aid, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and shelter. Prices of basic commodities continue to rise and the availability of food stocks in many parts of Syria is at risk. With over 11 million people having fled their homes both inside Syria and to the neighbouring countries, shelter needs are high. Children, women and the elderly are most at risk.

In the area of **health**, the long-lasting consequences of the conflict with shortages of qualified medical personnel and life-saving medicines, and the destruction of health infrastructure have left many without access to basic medical care. Medical facilities continue to be targeted by aerial bombardments, resulting in fatalities and destruction of facilities. Delivery of essential medical supplies and equipment, especially in opposition-controlled areas, is often blocked and the provision of aid to besieged and hard-to-reach areas is particularly difficult.

Despite increasing cross-border activities (under resolution 2165 and 2191), **Humanitarian access** is decreasing, aggravating living conditions for the populations in Government and opposition-controlled areas. Recent UN and NGO reports have extensively documented the sharp reduction of access in the country, while the numbers of those in need of assistance keep increasing throughout the country. The [latest report](#) of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139, 2165 and 2191 states that the conflict is severely shrinking the space within which humanitarian organisations can deliver essential assistance to conflict affected people. The targeting of key supply routes has prompted humanitarian organisations to reduce or intermittently halt their assistance in view of the heightened insecurities.

Refugees from Syria are now the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation with over 4.6 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and the wider region. Countries bordering Syria are reaching a dangerous saturation point, particularly **Lebanon**, which hosts almost 1.1 million Syria refugees and has, along with Jordan, the largest per capita refugee population in the world. **Turkey** is currently hosting more than 2.5 million Syrian refugees, the largest number of Syrian refugees in one country in the world.

The number of Syrian refugees arriving to Europe seeking international protection started to see an increased in 2015. UNHCR reports that since the beginning of the Syria crisis until November 2015, the total number of asylum applications from Syrians has reached 813,599.



The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The European Union is a leading donor in the response to the Syria crisis with over **€5 billion of total budget mobilised by the Commission and Member States collectively in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance. In addition, the EU has pledged over €3 billion at the London conference on 4 February 2016.**

The **€445 million** EU humanitarian assistance to the Syria crisis **for 2016** will continue addressing the needs inside Syria as well as the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries. An EU comprehensive [strategy](#) was launched at the beginning of 2015 to tackle the crises in Syria and Iraq, which included €1 billion in funding over 2015/16.

Almost half of the Commission's humanitarian assistance goes to immediate life-saving emergency humanitarian operations inside Syria. The Commission's humanitarian assistance provides safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, provisions of food, child protection activities and emergency items to people inside Syria in need of humanitarian assistance. **The European Commission's humanitarian aid is supporting over 1.15 million Syrian refugees with the provision of life-saving health assistance and medical care including vaccination programmes of children.**

In **Lebanon**, where there are no official camps, many refugees live in sub-standard shelter such as garages and tents. Through funding of International Non-Governmental Organisations in the country, the Commission is providing shelter assistance for the benefit of over 126 000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees living in dire housing to improve their living conditions. The Commission's humanitarian funding in Lebanon also enables the provision of aid to Syrian refugees such as food aid, clean water, sanitation and hygiene, health services and protection. Counselling and legal assistance to survivors of violence is also an important area of the EU contribution.

In **Jordan**, with 83% of the refugees living in urban settings, the European Commission supports the most vulnerable refugees through cash assistance as it is considered the most cost-efficient and dignified modality. In Zaatari and Azraq refugee camps, the Commission has invested in health and wash facilities and supports reproductive health facilities including the UNFPA clinic in Zaatari, where around 300 babies are born every day. With the support of the Commission, UNICEF has initiated an unconditional Child Cash Grant programme to assist ten thousands of children of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee families living in host communities in Jordan. Under this programme, a monthly cash transfer is made to eligible families, helping to provide the means to meet children's basic needs.

In **Turkey**, the Commission's humanitarian funding is supporting vulnerable refugees in Turkey who have fled violence in both Syria and Iraq, in particular refugees living outside of camps. The Commission's humanitarian funding in Turkey is prioritising programmes that provide the most vulnerable refugees basic assistance including e.g. access to health care, protection as well as the provision of electronic vouchers with which they can buy food and emergency items. Many Syrian children have not received any education for the last years and are at risk of becoming a lost generation. Through the EU Children of Peace initiative, the Commission has allocated humanitarian funding in Turkey in order to prevent a lost generation of Syrian children. **Through the initiative, thousands of Syrian children are ensured access to quality education.**

In addition, in November 2015, the EU announced that it is setting up a legal framework – a **Refugee Facility for Turkey** – with €3 billion to deliver efficient and complementary support to Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey. The Facility will start to provide grants and other financial support.

