



European  
Commission

## MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

# EU SUPPORT TO JORDAN

The EU pays tribute to the outstanding efforts Jordan is making since the outset of the Syrian refugee crisis. The EU remains deeply committed to assisting Jordan in dealing with the crisis. Overall, the EU is the leading donor in the international response to the Syrian crisis, with over **€6.1 billion** from the EU and Member States collectively mobilised in humanitarian and development assistance. This support goes both to Syrians in their country, and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, as well as Iraq, Turkey and Egypt.

At the London conference on “Supporting Syria and the region” in February 2016, the EU pledged **€1 billion** for Jordan and Lebanon together for the years 2016 and 2017. Jordan is expected to receive significant additional support in tackling the refugee crisis.

In Jordan, there are over 642 868 registered Syrian refugees, equal to over 10% of the country’s total population before the crisis. In addition, a large number of Palestinian and Iraqi refugees have been residing in Jordan since before the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, although the vast majority of the former hold regular Jordanian citizenship.

Overall, the European Commission has allocated almost **€686 million** in assistance to refugees and vulnerable communities in Jordan.

This includes inter alia:

- **more than €251 million** from the humanitarian budget, including **€53 million** for 2016
- **€180 million** from the Macro Financial Assistance Instrument
- **€170 million** from the European Neighbourhood Instrument
- **more than €30 million** from the Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability.

This support comes on top of the **more than €500 million** in regular programmed bilateral cooperation for Jordan under the European Neighbourhood Policy, which brings the **overall amount to over €1.13 billion** since 2011.

Number of Syrian refugees in Jordan:

**642 868**

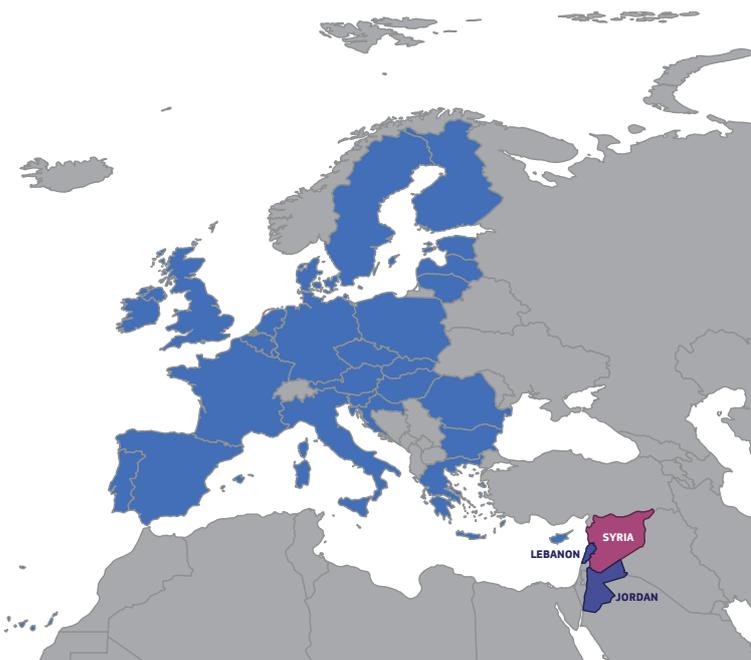
Number of Palestinian refugees in

Jordan:

**2 097 338**

Number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan:

**54 586**



## HUMANITARIAN AID TO JORDAN

Since the beginning of the crisis, the European Commission has contributed **more than €251 million**, providing services such as health, food and basic needs assistance, winterisation, shelter, water and sanitations, psychological support and protection programmes to refugees in camps and urban settings. The provision of basic services in villages and towns across the country also included vulnerable Jordanian families. Specific programmes support children's and women's needs, since approximately 53% of the refugees are children and 23.5% women.

With 83% of the refugees in Jordan living in urban settings, the European Commission supports the most vulnerable refugees through programmes including cash assistance, which is considered the most cost-efficient and dignified way of helping people in need.

## EU AID IN ACTION

Since 2012, UNICEF has received a total of **€30million** from the European Commission humanitarian budget for child protection, water and sanitation and the current child cash programme. Since February 2015, UNICEF is assisting about 56,000 girls and boys from 15,750 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee families in host communities with 20 Jordanian Dinar per child per month. EU humanitarian funding to UNICEF supports the work of the organisation at the North-Eastern border with Syria providing the distribution of water and child protection and nutrition activities for young children.

As a **priority in 2016**, humanitarian funding supports the emergency needs of the more than 57,000 refugees stranded along the North-Eastern border with Syria as the situation has become an emergency. Urgent life-saving assistance is required to meet basic needs and the EU is working with international organisations such as WFP's for weekly food distribution, UNICEF, ICRC for health and UNHCR for registration of new arrivals. With an increasing number of new arrivals to Azraq Camp, another priority is to ensure their basic assistance and shelter in the Camp.

## DELIVERY OF AID

The **EU's Humanitarian Aid** is channelled through the United Nations, International Organisations, and international NGO partners, and is responding to life-threatening needs in the areas of food aid, health, water, sanitation and hygiene as well as shelter and protection.

Since 2015, an increasing part of **non-humanitarian aid** for Syria's neighbouring countries to cope with the refugee crisis is channelled through the **EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis**, the 'Madad Fund'. The Trust Fund aims to bring a more coherent and integrated EU response to the crisis by merging various EU financial instruments and contributions from Member States and other international donors into one single flexible and quick mechanism. The Trust Fund primarily addresses longer term resilience needs of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, as well as the hosting communities and their administration. In the future, the Trust Fund may start financing resilience activities inside Syria and could become a funding tool for reconstruction, resettlement and governance support following a political settlement of the crisis. With recent pledges from 20 Member States - amounting to over €60 million - and contributions from various EU instruments, the Fund has now reached a **volume of more than €700 million**.

The Operational Board of the Trust Fund has already approved actions for a total amount of **€428 million** including €94 million support to Jordan, with a focus on increasing access for refugees to education and training, as well as livelihoods and WASH.

## PREVENTING A LOST GENERATION OF SYRIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The European Union has dedicated substantial resources to addressing the educational needs of children affected by the crisis in Jordan, such as support for basic education, youth programmes, vocational education and higher education in Jordan. The funding- largely through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (Madad Fund) to DAAD and UNICEF- has enabled Jordan to admit over 140,000 Syrian children into their public schools.

In addition, the EU has been supporting the Jordanian Ministry of Education through two subsequent Budget Support Programmes amounting to:

- **€59.6 million** for the years 2011-2014 (of which €29.6 million were dedicated to Syrian children)
- **€53 million** for the school years 2015-2017. Currently a top-up of **€20 million** is under preparation.

An additional **€8 million** has been devoted to Higher Education activities and scholarships in Jordan for Syrians and vulnerable Jordanians through the German Jordanian University and the British Council.

The EU is also active in assisting young people, providing important assistance through the EuroMed Youth programme, which aims at the promotion of youth projects through study visits and voluntary work.

## TRADE INITIATIVE – RELAXATION OF RULES OF ORIGIN

At the London Conference on 4 February 2016, as part of its response to the Syria crisis, the EU announced a trade initiative in accordance with earlier Jordanian requests. The initiative proposes a temporary relaxation of Rules of Origin for certain products manufactured with labour including Syrian refugees in selected development zones in Jordan.

The proposed alternative rules of origin for Jordanian exporters would be those used by the EU for imports from Least-Developed Countries under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) / Everything but Arms (EBA) scheme. The initiative is designed to last ten years, with a mid-term revision allowing the parties to make adjustments in light of experience.

A proposal has now been made to the Council of Ministers. Assuming agreement is reached, the deal will need to be ratified by both parties at the EU–Jordan Association Committee scheduled for late July of this year.