

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SYRIA AND THE REGION

EU SUPPORT TO SYRIANS INSIDE SYRIA

The Syrian conflict is one of the worst humanitarian crises since World War II. **The European Union (EU) is the leading donor in the international response to the Syrian crisis with an overall total of over €9.4 billion** from the EU budget and Member States collectively allocated in humanitarian and development assistance since the start of the conflict in 2011. At the London Conference on “Supporting Syria and the region” (February 2016), the EU pledged €2.39 billion for Syria and the region for 2016 and 2017.

Inside Syria, 13.5 million people, almost three quarters of the remaining population, are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.3 internally-displaced people and 4.9 people in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. The almost daily violations of international humanitarian law, such as the continued deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure, including water distribution systems, medical facilities and schools, have led to severe shortages of essential services. At the same time, access and delivery of humanitarian assistance have been severely hampered. Moreover, the crisis has severely affected a large number of Palestine and Iraq refugees who have been residing in the country since before the crisis. Furthermore millions of people have fallen into poverty, forced to take risky choices and facing increased protection risks.

Following the escalation of violence and unacceptable human rights situation in Syria in 2011, and in parallel with the adoption of various restrictive measures, the EU suspended all cooperation (bilateral, regional, provision of loans and technical assistance) with the Government of Syria in 2011. Nevertheless, the EU continued its direct support to the Syrian population, both inside Syria and also in the neighbouring countries.



Overall, the European Commission has allocated **almost €940 million** in assistance to the Syrian population and Internally Displaced persons **inside Syria** since the beginning of the conflict. This assistance includes:

- **Over €610 million** for humanitarian needs
- **€328 million** for long-term resilience needs of civilians, out of which:
 - **€234 million** to support civil society and address the needs of civilians notably in the sector of education, livelihoods, local governance, health, access to basic service;
 - **More than €65 million** to support mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, notably aiming at preventing and combatting harmful consequences of violent extremism by promoting social cohesion and moderate voices in Syria.
 - **About €15 million** to address urgent needs in agriculture and food security.
 - **Almost €14 million** to support Syrian civil society and human rights organisations in various fields among which Human rights violation documentation, support to independent media, transitional justice and accountability, and capacity development.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN SYRIA

Since the beginning of the crisis, more than €610 million has been allocated from the EU budget to provide humanitarian assistance inside Syria particularly in hard to reach and besieged areas. This is providing millions of people with life-saving assistance including food and safe drinking water, non-food items, shelter, emergency medical treatments and protection.

The EU supports humanitarian programmes implemented by its partners (United Nations, International organizations and International NGOs) in respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, irrespective of political, religious or ethnic affiliations and only responding to humanitarian needs.

Through its first-line emergency response, the EU and its humanitarian partners prioritise locations where civilian population have no or limited access to humanitarian assistance. 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.

NON-HUMANITARIAN AND RESILIENCE ASSISTANCE IN SYRIA

In parallel to humanitarian assistance, the EU is helping meet the needs of civilians in the sectors of education, local governance, livelihoods, health, agriculture/food security, media, human rights, civil society and cultural heritage protection.

So far, the EU has allocated €328 million to support Syria's human capital and the delivery of basic services, thereby paving the way for post-conflict recovery and providing the means for people to remain in their homes in dignity.

Number of Internally Displaced Persons:

6.3 million

Number of children out of school in Syria:

1.75 million

Number of people needing health assistance:

12.8 million

Number of people living in poverty:

4 out of 5, with more than 6.5 million living in abject poverty



DELIVERY OF AID

This assistance is delivered in line with a 'Whole of Syria Approach' that ensures aid is delivered to affected populations throughout the country. This is done through implementing partners such as UN agencies, NGOs and Member State agencies following a cautious, conflict-sensitive assessment, close monitoring and oversight of final beneficiaries.

In addition to assistance inside Syria, the EU is also supporting the needs of Syrian refugees and their host communities in the region. Since 2015, an increasing part of non-humanitarian aid for Syria's neighbouring countries Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq is channelled through the **EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis**. The Trust Fund is ensuring 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-response mechanism. The Trust Fund addresses resilience needs of Syrian refugees as well as the needs of hosting communities. **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 in the event of a political transition.** With contributions from 22 EU Member States amounting to over €92.6 million, as well as from Turkey and various EU budget instruments, the Fund has reached a total volume of close to €1 billion. Projects focusing on education, livelihoods and health have already been approved, covering a total of €767 million.