



EUROPEAN UNION



## EUROPE'S SUPPORT TO REFUGEES AND THEIR HOST COUNTRIES

### EU REGIONAL TRUST FUND IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS

The conflict in Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. **Over 5.6 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries** with the crisis going into its 8th year. Despite the move of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees to Europe in 2015/2016, the primary burden of hosting the refugees continues to fall on the neighbouring countries in the region. Lebanon (1 million) and Jordan (650,000) host the largest numbers of registered refugees per capita in the world. In Lebanon, one in five people is a refugee, while one in 15 is a refugee in Jordan. Meanwhile, Turkey continues to host the largest number of refugees in the world, 3.5 million. Iraq and Egypt continue to host large numbers of Syrian refugees along with refugees from many other countries. Many of the refugees have now been in these host countries for many years and struggle to make ends meet. They are increasingly vulnerable and face extremely high rates of poverty.

## THE TRUST FUND

Since its establishment in December 2014, an increasing share of the EU's non-humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees and their host countries is provided through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad' Fund. With contributions and pledges from 22 EU Member States and Turkey, amounting to now more than €150 million, and contributions from various EU instruments, the Fund **has reached a total volume of €1.5 billion to date**.

Large programmes focusing on education, livelihoods, health, socio-economic support, water and waste water infrastructure – benefitting both refugees and their host communities – have already been approved by the Fund's Board, for a total of more than €1.2 billion. Of this, **€920 million have been contracted in over 46 projects** to the Trust Fund's implementing partners on the ground, now reaching more than 2 million beneficiaries.

## OBJECTIVES

- **Contribute to the goal of No Lost Generation** by getting all refugee children and vulnerable children in host communities into quality education with adequate protection and equal access for girls and boys.
- **Reduce the pressure on countries hosting refugees** by investing in livelihoods, social cohesion, health, water and sanitation, and by providing support to access vocational training and jobs for refugees and host communities.

## HOW DOES IT FUNCTION?

- **Regional scale & synergy driven** allowing for multi-country & multi-partner actions.
- **Building bridges** across the humanitarian-development nexus to sustain the crisis response with longer-term programmes.
- **Building strong partnerships** through inclusive governance with host countries, donors, agencies and NGOs.
- **Adaptable to developments in the region:** Designed to respond effectively to crises & displacement as they unfold, extended in 2016 to Iraq's internally displaced people & refugees in the Western Balkans.
- **Critical mass and efficiency:** Designed to obtain the highest possible real-life impact for beneficiaries through large programmes and low transaction cost (less than 1%).
- **Forward planning:** Potential post-crisis funding tool in support of voluntary return & reconstruction inside Syria once a political transition is firmly underway.

## IMPACT

The first 21 projects of the Fund are already showing results:

- **453,552 refugee and host community children and youth** obtain improved access to quality education, protection, and psycho-social support.
- **253 schools and education facilities** are constructed and renovated.
- **28,520 refugee and host community youth are gaining access to higher and further education and vocational training**, among which 4,437 full scholarships and 6,126 language trainings.
- Access to quality emergency health, maternal and child care for Syrian refugees and host communities is improved: **209,000 vulnerable beneficiaries receive medical care and essential medicines**.
- **462,491 refugees and members of host communities improve their economic self-reliance** and livelihoods through different vocational, employability and skills trainings, SME support and access to the job market.

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

**EDUCATION AND PROTECTION:** In cooperation with AVSI Foundation, Terre des Hommes and War Child, 'Back to the Future' provides Syrian refugee and local community children with improved access to formal education so that they can either start or resume their schooling. The project also seeks to raise awareness about children's right to education and train education professionals in Lebanon and Jordan.

The project reaches **98,030 children and 370 education professionals**. The EU Trust Fund supports the project by providing €12 million in funding.



**HEALTH CARE:** In cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), this project provides essential, life-saving care to Syrian refugees in Lebanon, through referral mechanisms that allow them Syrians to get better access to lifesaving and emergency hospital care.

This project **reaches 140,000 patients** and is funded with €15 million from the EU Trust Fund.

**RESILIENCE AND LIVELIHOODS:** Through a truly European partnership including GIZ (Germany), Expertise France (France), Agence française de coopération médias (France), Agence española de cooperación internacional (Spain) and Cooperación Española (Spain), the 'QUDRA' I.A. project increases the economic self-reliance of youth in refugee camps and host communities, covering Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey.

The project **targets 975,000 young people** and receives €74 million in funding from the EU Regional Trust Fund.

