



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 5.5 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries** with the crisis in its 10<sup>th</sup> 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 with close to 1 million<sup>1</sup> registered Syrian refugees, and Jordan, with 650,000<sup>1</sup>, 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 registered Syrian refugees in the world, 3.6 million<sup>1</sup>. 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 EU 'Madad' Fund. With contributions and pledges from 21 EU Member States, Turkey and the United Kingdom, amounting now to €240 million, and contributions from various EU instruments, the Fund **has reached a total volume of €2.2 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 €2.2 billion. Of this, more than **€1.8 billion have been contracted in 89 projects** to the Trust Fund's implementing partners on the ground, now reaching more than 7 million beneficiaries.

### OBJECTIVES

In line with the priorities set out at the London Conference on Syria in 2016, the Brussels Conferences on the Future of Syria and the Region in 2017-2019, and the Global Compact on Refugees, the main objective of the Fund is to foster **more self-reliance of refugees**, helping them thrive, not just survive, by **bridging the funding gap and humanitarian-development nexus**. At the same time, the Fund **assists the countries and communities hosting the refugees** in coping with the additional economic and social burden of the crisis.

### HOW DOES IT FUNCTION?

- **Flexibility** through regional scale, enabling multi-country as well as local synergies.
- **Bridging** the humanitarian-development nexus with quick-impact as well as multi-year programmes.
- **Strategic partnerships** with donors, host countries, and implementing partners through inclusive governance in the Board and multi-partner actions.
- **Critical mass and efficiency** by maximising impact through pooling of funds from across the EU budget & donors, large programmes and low transaction cost (less than 1%).
- **Adaptable** with capability to respond timely to shifting needs and new developments in the region, including possible future use as post-crisis funding tool.

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR latest 2020 data

## RESULTS

The Trust Fund's results monitoring<sup>2</sup> of 73 projects shows substantial progress and results:

- More than **470,000** refugee and host community children have access to **quality formal and non-formal basic education**
- More than **6,900** refugee and host community youth have received **scholarships**
- More than **530,000** refugees and vulnerable people have access to improved **economic self-reliance and livelihood opportunities**
- More than **4,200,000** refugees and vulnerable people from local communities have access to **medical care and health services**
- More than **400,000** refugees and members of local communities have access to **water and sanitation services**
- More than **560,000** vulnerable people have access to **protection services**, ranging from mine clearance actions to psychosocial support
- More than **1,000,000** refugees and members of local communities benefit from **social cohesion support**

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

**Social protection:** increasing the resilience of the most economically vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees in Lebanon is amongst the main objectives of a project led by the World Food Programme (WFP), with the help of the EU Regional Trust Fund. Direct assistance is provided to the most vulnerable, and technical support is lent to national systems in their efforts to successfully implement social assistance systems.

The project **reaches 75,000 vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees in Lebanon**. The EU Regional Trust Fund supports the project by providing €48 million in funding.



**Gender equality, resilience & livelihood:** enhancing the security, resilience and livelihoods of **almost 45,000 refugee women, internally displaced people and local communities in Lebanon and Iraq** is the main objective of an EU Regional Trust Fund-supported project led by the EuroMed Feminist Initiative (IFE-EFI). Through various activities, gender equality and women empowerment are promoted on the national level in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

The EU Trust Fund supports the project by providing €12.5 million in funding.

**Health services:** strengthening health care service and infrastructure while increasing the quality of critical care is the overarching objective of AISPO's work in Duhok Governorate, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Thanks to the support of the EU Regional Trust Fund, **more than 2 million Iraqis, Syrian refugees and internally displaced people** have access to improved services: Hevi hospital in Duhok city has a new surgical ward and an expanded neonatal intensive care unit. With new, state-of-the-art medical equipment, and increased cooperation amongst medical staff about patients' cases, the survival rate has improved dramatically.

The EU Trust Fund supports phase 2 of this project by providing €5 million in funding.



<sup>2</sup> [Seventh Results Reporting – EUTF Syria & Region – September 2020](#)