The conflict in Syria has triggered the world’s largest humanitarian crisis. Refugees from Syria are the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation, with over 5.6 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and the wider region.

The countries bordering Syria are hosting the majority of refugees. Lebanon hosts close to 1 million registered Syrian refugees and has one of the largest per capita refugee population in the world.

The EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis currently supports 27 projects in Lebanon, benefiting both Syrians and Lebanese.

As well as having a direct impact on the lives of Syrian refugees, Palestinian Refugees from Syria and vulnerable host communities in Lebanon, EU Trust Fund projects have a common emphasis on pursuing a longer-term resilience agenda that has a transformative effect on public service delivery systems across a range of sectors.

**Sectors covered by the EU Regional Trust Fund (current values):**

- **Basic Education**: 220,683 girls & boys have access to primary education
- **Livelihoods & Local Development**: 100,322 Syrians & Lebanese are benefiting from livelihoods & resilience support
- **Higher & Further Education**: 1,597 young women & men have access to higher education or vocational training
- **Water & Sanitation**: 44,960 Syrians & Lebanese have access to improved water services & infrastructure
- **Health Services**: 1,177,753 Syrians and Lebanese have access to medical care & health services
- **Protection**: 50,154 Syrians & Lebanese are benefiting from protection services
- **Social Cohesion**: 177,141 Syrians and Lebanese have access to social cohesion services

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1. Source - UNHCR (last updated: 30 June 2019)
2. EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis - 4th Results Report - June 2019
Amsha Dhamen lives in Tamnine el Tahta, Lebanon, with her husband and son, who are both disabled. Daily life is hard and, until recently, it was made even harder because of her weekly struggle to access water. “We used to get our water from the water tanks, which are located on the rooftop,” Amsha says. “They needed to be refilled every five days in summer, less so in winter. Each time, we paid around 25,000 Lebanese pounds (€15).”

“It was such a painful procedure... First, we had to walk all the way to the man who brought us water. When he came, we put the hose on the rooftop, where the water tanks were. Someone had to stay down below, someone stayed on top and another person stood next to the water tank and we passed the hose to each other. In winter, when there was snow and ice, we suffered a lot.”

Water scarcity, aging infrastructures and operational challenges are the longest-standing water management problems in Lebanon. The influx of Syrian refugees has further aggravated these issues. Following up on a previous UNHCR intervention financed by the EU that built the infrastructure, a new project funded by the EU Trust Fund and carried out by GVC, aims to address these challenges by enhancing the public institution’s managerial capacities to ensure sustainable access to reliable water services for refugees and local communities.

“Now that we are connected to the water and we have a meter installed, we won’t have to struggle with the hose anymore,” Amsha says. “It will be cheaper. And if I can’t afford to pay in one go, they say I can pay in several instalments. We will be happier and able to see some seeds and plants grow at our doorstep.”

Omar was born in Lebanon, the first child of Syrian refugees who had fled the war in their home country six years ago. After meeting in Lebanon, the couple married and settled in Akkar, near the Syrian border in the north of the country where they welcomed Omar into their family.

One morning, Omar’s mother went out to get bread and left Omar sleeping in his cot. When she came back, the tent was on fire. While their neighbour had managed to get the child out, Omar sustained third degree burns to his head and face, and was in urgent need of medical attention. The family took Omar to a local clinic, but due to monetary restrictions were advised to take him to the El Salam Hospital in Tripoli instead, where the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) covers up to 90% of the costs.

While Omar’s father works in agriculture, his work doesn’t allow him to make enough money to cover his family’s needs. Thanks to UNHCR – and with the support of the EU Trust Fund – Omar has been able to receive the life-saving treatment he needs.

Lea Abu Naoum, 18, is from Lebanon and lives in Zahle. Her village is called Raet, which is located in Bekaa.

When Lea was a child, she used to go to a boarding school called Hadanet Al-Tifl in Zahle. “When I was in second grade, my father passed away. It was on a Friday, when I was supposed to go back home. I came back home and I didn’t find him,” she says.

Lea always dreamt of becoming a doctor, “not for money and to become rich, but I feel that the world needs people who help humanity,” she explains. She started her first year at the science college, which is important for her to go through the medicine competition. Her financial situation was not going to help her because the journey of medicine is long.

Hopes scholarship provides a two year full support to each student, including university fees, transportation, accommodation and more. “They will help me go on, not only this year and the next year, but I will also benefit from it for the fourth and fifth years.”