



Syria crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria: **13.5 million**

In hard to reach/besieged areas: **4.7 million**

Estimated number of internally displaced: **6.3 million** (UNOCHA)

Number of refugees - registered: **(UNHCR)**

- Lebanon: **1 011 366**
- Turkey: **2,910,281**
- Jordan: **657,000**
- Iraq: **233,224**
- Egypt & North Africa: **120,154** (UNHCR, Government of Turkey)

EU funding

Total (Commission and Member States):
Over **€ 9.4 billion**

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Kits containing basic food items are distributed in a village in Idlib province. ©EU/ECHO/People in Need

Key messages

- The Syria conflict has triggered the **world's largest humanitarian crisis since World War II**. Humanitarian needs are huge, population displacement persists and fighting continues in the country.
- The European Union and its Member States are collectively lead providers of international aid. More than **€ 9.4 billion has been mobilised for relief and recovery assistance** to Syrians inside the country, from any entry point possible (cross border, cross line), and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt.
- The European Commission is funding **humanitarian programmes implemented by its humanitarian partners who provide millions of people with life-saving assistance including food, safe drinking water, non-food items, shelter, emergency medical treatments and protection.**

The EU calls for the respect of the ongoing ceasefire, the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the protection of civilians, especially children, women and other vulnerable groups and for unhindered unconditioned humanitarian access to all those in need.

- In March 2017 The European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have yesterday adopted a **Joint Communication proposing a forward- looking EU strategy for Syria**. The Communication also looks into how the EU can continue its assistance to over 13.5 million people in need in Syria, help building resilience and stability in the country, and supporting post-agreement reconstruction and the voluntary, dignified and safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons once a credible political transition is underway.

Humanitarian situation

The Syrian population is highly vulnerable and **13.5 million of people are in need of humanitarian assistance**; of these, 6.3 million are internally displaced and 4.7 million live in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. Civilians continue to be the primary victims of the conflict. Rape and sexual violence, enforced disappearances, forcible displacement, recruitment of child soldiers, summary executions and deliberate targeting of civilian places and infrastructure essential for people's survival have become commonplace.

On December 17, 2016, the UNSC unanimously approved Resolution 2332 (2016) renewing Resolution 2165 (2014) for another 12 months, which authorizes UN agencies and their partners to use routes across conflict lines and international border crossings to deliver humanitarian assistance to people in need in Syria.

On December 29, 2016, a ceasefire agreement was reached between the Government of Syria and armed opposition groups (AOGs). The countrywide ceasefire entered into effect on the 30th of December. At the time of this report, the ceasefire remains fragile and fighting is ongoing in places like Eastern Ghouta, Idlib, Homs and Raqqa, which are triggering new needs and displacements.

In areas such as Eastern Ghouta, Raqqa, Idlib and Al Bab humanitarian access and capacity to respond in a timely and effective manner pose a major challenge to humanitarian actors. The EU is very active in reaching out to humanitarian partners for prepositioning stock and contingency planning to anticipate new population movements.

In Aleppo, despite the completion of evacuations and the end of the fighting in Aleppo city, **the humanitarian situation remains dire, the scale of destruction is massive, and needs are enormous**. The UN and INGOs have been granted access to east Aleppo city and needs assessments are being carried out. Recent findings indicate that shelter solutions and the provision of winter relief assistance are overarching priorities. Protection issues are also important concerns: detention is reportedly still a risk for many IDPs staying in different temporary sites, with risk of large presence of munitions and UXOs in public places and residential areas. Besides, lack of civil documentation, family separation, widespread traumatization and high prevalence of persons with special needs are also of important protection concerns.

In other parts of the country, where military offensives and airstrikes continue, basic services and infrastructures are still severely affected, in particular the disruption of water supplies.

Major challenges

The **magnitude of humanitarian needs is overwhelming** in all parts of Syria. The main priorities are treating the wounded and sick, providing food aid, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, fuel for heating and winter items. Prices of basic commodities have been rising and the availability of food stocks in many parts of Syria is at risk. Shelter needs are prevalent with **over 11 million people having fled their homes** from inside Syria to the neighbouring countries. Children, women and the elderly are most at risk.

In the area of **health**, the long-lasting consequences of the conflict include shortages of qualified medical personnel and life-saving medicines as well as the destruction of health infrastructure, leaving many without access to basic medical care. Medical facilities have been targeted by aerial bombardments, resulting in fatalities and destruction of facilities. Impeding the delivery of essential medical supplies, equipment and treatment has been used as a weapon of war.

The cessation of hostilities and the renewal of the UNSC resolutions above mentioned have yet to result in a substantive expansion of access for humanitarian assistance and personnel, which could help mitigate the seriously deteriorated living conditions for populations in both government and opposition-controlled areas.

Refugees from Syria are now the largest refugee population from a single conflict. A generation with over **4.9 million Syrian refugees** is registered in neighbouring countries and the wider region. The numbers



have reached dangerous saturation points in countries bordering Syria, particularly **Lebanon**, which hosts around 1 million Syria refugees and has, along with Jordan, the largest per capita refugee population in the world. **Turkey** is currently hosting about 3 million Syrian refugees, registering the largest number of Syrian refugees in one country in the world.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The European Union is a leading donor in the response to the Syria crisis with over **€ 9.4 billion of total budget** mobilised by the Commission and Member States collectively in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance.

The **€445 million EU humanitarian assistance** to the Syria crisis **for 2016, as well as the allocation 2017**, will continue addressing the needs inside Syria as well as the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries.

Inside **Syria** the EU humanitarian assistance is responding to emergency crises throughout the country, working from all humanitarian hubs. Almost half of the Commission's humanitarian assistance goes to immediate life-saving and emergency humanitarian operations. In addition, the assistance includes the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, provisions of food, child protection activities and emergency items.

Since the launch of the Humanitarian Initiative for Aleppo on October 2nd, 2016 by HR/VP Mogherini and Commissioner Stylianides, the EU has been working to ensure minimum conditions for humanitarian access and for the security and safety of medical staff and humanitarian workers. At the operational level, the EU has been working closely with humanitarian partners, including the UN, ICRC and INGOs, to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance and urgent medical evacuations from Eastern Aleppo, allocating an emergency contribution of €25M. The EU will continue advocating for the access to and protection of civilians all over Syria.

In **Lebanon**, EU humanitarian funding has contributed to cash assistance for the most vulnerable refugees, secondary healthcare for lifesaving cases, non-formal education and shelter -including water, hygiene and sanitation- to improve the living conditions of the vulnerable families mostly affected by the displacement. Protection remains a fundamental sector where partners conduct regular monitoring of the main protection concerns and provides awareness, counselling and legal assistance to the refugee population. Since 2012, the EU's humanitarian aid to Lebanon has been reaching around **750.000 Syrian refugees**. For 2016, EU humanitarian funding amounted to €87M and should remain stable in 2017.

In **Jordan**, the EU supports the provision of humanitarian assistance to 650.000 Syrian refugees present in the country. The EU supports the most vulnerable refugees through cash assistance and has been partnering with international organisations in several sectors like protection, health, winterization and basic needs. In 2016, the €53M of EU humanitarian funding also targeted the emergency needs of more than 45.000 refugees stranded along the North-Eastern border. In 2017, the total allocation for Jordan is expected to reach € 55 Million.

In **Egypt**, the ongoing humanitarian operations amount to €4M and target the most in need out of the 116 000 Syrian registered refugees or awaiting registration in the country according to UNHCR. The European Union supports the most refugees living in substandard conditions in urban contest through protection, health and education in emergency assistance.

In **Turkey**, the Commission's humanitarian funding is supporting vulnerable refugees who have fled violence in Syria as well as other countries, in particular refugees living outside the camps. The Commission's programmes provide basic assistance to the most deprived, including food assistance and emergency items, access to health care and to protection services. In 2016, the EU with Member States launched the Facility for Refugees in Turkey to deliver efficient and complementary support to Syrian and other refugees and host communities in close cooperation with Turkish authorities. The Facility provides a joint coordination mechanism for actions financed by the EU budget and national contributions made by the Member States. It is designed to ensure that the needs of refugees and host communities are addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. The Facility has a €3 billion budget for 2016 and 2017 to support humanitarian interventions and long term assistance for refugees countrywide in Turkey. €1,5 billion has been contracted in humanitarian and long term assistance in Turkey until February 2017. €551 million has been contracted for humanitarian operations.

