**Syria crisis**

**ECHO FACTSHEET**

**Facts & Figures**

Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria: **12.2 million**

In hard to reach/besieged areas: **4.6 million**

Estimated number of internally displaced: **7.6 million** (UNOCHA)

Number of registered refugees: **4 015 070**
- Lebanon: 1 172 753
- Turkey: 1 805 255
- Jordan: 630 224
- Iraq: 250 408
- Egypt & North Africa: 156 430 (UNHCR and GoT)

**EU funding**

Total (Commission and Member States): **€ over 3.9 billion**

**Syrian IDP’s and refugees in the neighbouring countries (as of 19.08.15)**

**Key messages**

- The Syria conflict has triggered the **largest humanitarian crisis since World War II**. Humanitarian needs steadily rise, population displacements continue, and an entire generation of children is being exposed to war and violence, increasingly deprived of basic services, education and protection.

- The European Union and its Member States collectively are leading the international response. More than **€3.9 billion have been mobilised for relief and recovery assistance** to Syrians in their country and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt.

- Through advocacy at the highest levels, the EU calls for the **respect of International Humanitarian Law** (IHL) and the protection of civilians, especially children and women. The kidnapping and killings of humanitarian workers only strengthen the call to all parties to the conflict to ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel.

- The EU calls for all parties to the conflict to **allow unhindered humanitarian access, across conflict lines as well as borders**, to ensure safe delivery of humanitarian aid and medical care to all people in need.
Humanitarian situation and needs

Humanitarian situation

The humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate with uninterrupted violence and conflict from Government forces and Armed Opposition Groups. The advance of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) across large areas of Syria has severely impacted civilians, with reports of grave violations of human rights in areas under their control. Hostilities have damaged and destroyed emergency field hospitals, schools, water, and electricity services in densely populated areas where both local communities and the internally displaced reside. The total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria has reached 12.2 million, approximately 7.6 million of whom are internally displaced; the largest number of internally displaced persons in any country in the world. 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 shelling of civilian targets have become commonplace. On 16 August 2015, a civilian market in Douma was hit, killing almost 100 people, adding to the 250,000 people already killed since the beginning of the crisis. This attack - as well as other indiscriminate attacks against civilians - were condemned in a joint declaration by High Representative and Vice President, Federica Mogherini, and EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides.

Major challenges

The magnitude of humanitarian needs is overwhelming in all parts of the country as violence escalates and coping mechanisms become exhausted. Humanitarian consequences are worsening, especially in the sectors of health and water. Nearly 5 million people are facing water shortages in Rural Damascus, Damascus, Dara’a and Aleppo due to the often deliberate cutting of water supplies by parties to the conflict. The situation is especially severe in Aleppo where around 1.7 million people are suffering from water shortages at a time when Syria is experiencing intense summer heat waves. The water cuts and poor sanitation conditions severely increase the risk of water borne disease outbreaks. In the last 3 months, incidents of acute diarrhoea and water borne disease such as hepatitis and typhoid have increased by more than 40 per cent.

In the area of health, the long-lasting devastating consequences of the conflict, including shortages of qualified medical personnel and life-saving medicines, and the destruction of health infrastructure are leaving large number of people without access to healthcare services. Reports estimate that more Syrians die due to health complications resulting from inadequate health care services or lack of access to health care than as consequence of the violence. Medical facilities continue to be targeted by aerial bombardments, resulting in fatalities and destruction of facilities. According to Physicians for Human Rights, 285 attacks on 213 separate medical facilities have taken place since the beginning of the conflict. The organisation also reports that 642 medical personnel have been killed.

Humanitarian access is decreasing, aggravating living conditions for the populations in Government and opposition-controlled areas. Recent UN and NGO reports have extensively documented the sharp reduction of access in the country, while the numbers of those in need of assistance keep increasing throughout the country.

Intense fighting and shifting of conflict lines as well as cumbersome administrative procedures are hindering the delivery of aid. Delivery of essential medical supplies and equipment, especially in opposition-controlled areas, is often blocked and the provision of aid to besieged and hard-to-reach areas is particularly difficult. The most recent report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139, 2165 and 2191 states that as many as 4.6 million people are residing in areas that are difficult for humanitarian actors to reach, with more than 422,000 residing in besieged areas. Concerns about security and safety of humanitarian personnel remain as high as ever in all parts of Syria, with ambulances and UN vehicles regularly attacked and
humanitarian workers kidnapped and killed. 77 humanitarian workers have been killed since the conflict started in March 2011.

Refugees from Syria are now the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation with over 4 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and the larger region. Countries bordering Syria are approaching a dangerous saturation point, particularly Lebanon, which hosts the largest per capita refugee population in the world with almost 1.2 million Syria refugees. Neighbouring countries have continued to step up border restrictions and controls as well as security measures in and along areas bordering with Syria. In Lebanon, border points with Syria are currently closed and refoulement of vulnerable persons has been reported. Shelter remains a serious concern for the vast majority of refugee families, while the number of house evictions and dismantling of informal refugee settlements are increasing.

Jordanian authorities have also tightened controls along border areas and at border crossing points. There are several hundred asylum seekers stranded in the no-man's land at the border in desperate need of urgent humanitarian assistance. ECHO has stepped up its support to people stranded at the border and support the referral of the Syrian war-wounded in need of treatment. In the last months, Jordan has seen an increasing arrival of war-wounded refugees most of them injured by barrel bombs. The protection space for Syrian refugees continues to shrink with WFP's cuts of assistance for refugees living outside the camps. Access to health care by Syrian refugees has been restricted as the provision of, secondary Health Care and treatment of chronic illnesses for Syrian refugees has ended. This has forced some refugees to seek access to health services in refugee camps as a result, further straining resources in the camps. Under these circumstances an increasing number of Syrian refugees going back to Syria has been reported.

In Iraq, where 95% of Syrian refugees reside in the Kurdish Region, there are growing concerns about the capacities of the local government, communities and humanitarian organisations amidst the serious crisis in the country.

Turkey is currently hosting more than 1.8 million Syrian refugees, the largest number of Syrian refugees in one country in the world. In June, following intensification of violence in the Syrian city of Tal Abyad on the border with Turkey, over 23 000 refugees entered into Turkey in the border province of Sanliurfa in a short period of time.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

The European Union is a leading donor in the response to the Syria crisis with over €3.9 billion of total budget mobilised by the Commission and Member States collectively in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance since the beginning of the crisis. The European Commission is supporting humanitarian partners to reach vulnerable people in need, providing amongst others: vital emergency food assistance, safe water, emergency medical supplies, shelter needs, protection, and cash and rent assistance.

In 2015, the Commission has increased its humanitarian assistance to the Syria crisis to €200 million, half of which goes to needs inside Syria accessing people both cross-line from Damascus and cross-border from neighbouring countries, and the other half to Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

A new EU comprehensive strategy has been developed to tackle the crises in Syria and Iraq, which will include €1 billion in funding over the next two years. Responding to the humanitarian catastrophe in the region, the European Commission will contribute at least €400 million in humanitarian aid which aims to cover needs inside Syria, Iraq and in neighbouring countries. This funding accounts for 40% of the total package envisaged by the strategy.

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During the Third International Pledging Conference for Syria in Kuwait in March 2015, donors pledged a total of US$3.6 billion in humanitarian and development assistance to the Syria crisis out of which the EU and its Member States pledged €1.1 billion – the largest pledge by any donor.

Examples of EU funded relief projects

In partnership with World Food Programme (WFP) and the ICRC the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is together with other donors providing food assistance inside Syria reaching about 4 million people per month. ECHO through its support to UNICEF is providing safe water supply to the communities affected by the conflict, with a specific focus on hard-to-reach areas. Photo credit: WFP

As the war in Syria enters its fifth year, both Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities struggle to fulfill their basic needs. Through ECHO funding, Save the Children has provided unconditional cash assistance to more than 16 000 children and their families since 2014, helping them to fulfill their monthly expenditures such as rent, food, clothing and medical healthcare, as well as to better withstand the harsh winter in Jordan. In 2015, eight EU-funded Child and Family Centres will provide child protection and psychosocial support activities to more than 4 000 boys and girls under the age of 18, as well as parents and community members. The centres offer a protective and stimulating learning environment for Syrian and Jordanian boys and girls to learn, play, and grow confidently together. Photo credit: STC/Hedinn Halldorsson

In September 2014, nearly 200 000 Syrian refugees arrived in Suruc district in southern Turkey after having fled from the Syrian town of Ayn Al Arab (Kobane in Kurdish). ECHO quickly mobilised assistance to the newly arrived which included the provision of food security, various emergency kits, portable latrines and showers, as well as essential medical supplies. Through humanitarian partners, ECHO also ensures that assistance continues to reach vulnerable refugee families throughout the south-east of Turkey as part of its ongoing emergency response programme focusing particularly on health and basic assistance as well as by providing education to Syrian children through the Children of Peace initiative. Photo credit: ECHO partners

National and international NGOs are responding to the needs of over one million Syrian refugees in Lebanon where there are no official camps. Almost all refugees pay for rent, even if half of them live in very poor shelter such as garages and tents. ECHO supports the Norwegian Refugee Council’s Information, Counselling, and Legal Assistance (ICLA) outreach program which aims to ease relations between landlord and lessee to avoid abuse and eviction. The ICLA provide refugees with up-to-date legal information. Photo credit: NRC/Sam Tarling

In Iraq, ECHO is funding the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to provide shelter support vouchers for almost 2 000 households living in urban settings of Erbil. These vouchers are redeemable at local vendors and can be used to purchase shelter and water and sanitation materials for basic repairs to the shelters, as well as non-food-items such as kerosene heaters, bedding and small household appliances. Photo credit: ECHO/Caroline Gluck

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