



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 refugees - registered & awaiting registration: **4 088 099**

- Lebanon: **1 113 941**
- Turkey: **1 938 999**
- Jordan: **629 266**
- Iraq: **249 463**
- Egypt & North Africa: **156 375** (UNHCR)

EU funding

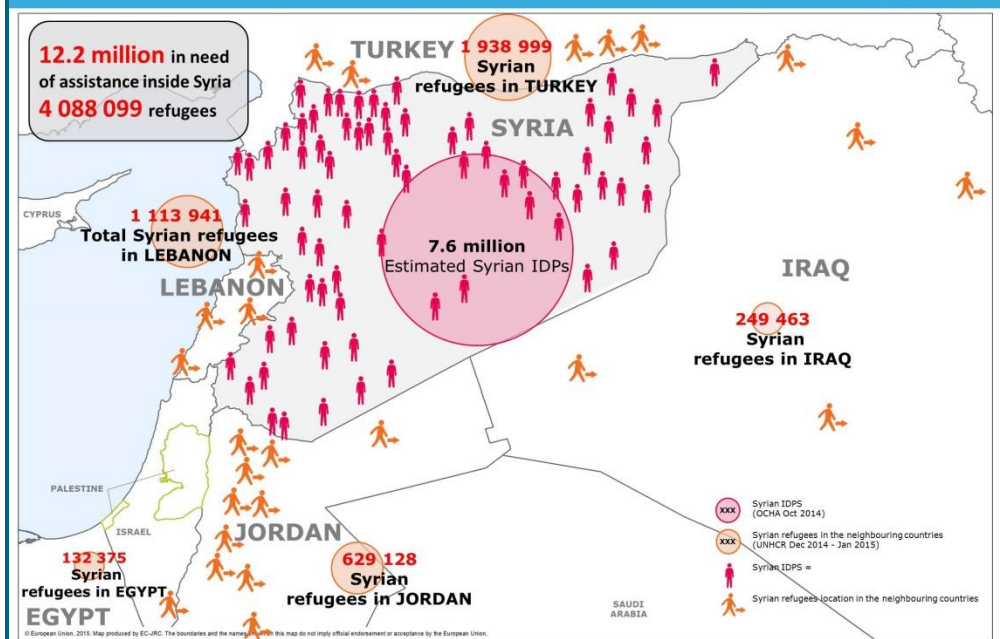
Total (Commission and Member States): **Over € 4 billion**

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* All the latest ECHO Factsheets: bit.ly/echo-fs

Syrian IDPs and refugees in the neighbouring countries (as of 14.09.15)



Key messages

- The Syria conflict has triggered the **world's largest humanitarian crisis since World War II**. Humanitarian needs continue to rise, population displacements are increasing, 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 **€4 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 its humanitarian partners, the European Commission is supporting **humanitarian programmes which provide millions of people with life-saving assistance including food and safe drinking water, non-food items, shelter, emergency medical treatments and protection**.
- The EU calls for the **respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, the protection of civilians, especially children and women and condemns all indiscriminate attacks on civilians by all parties of the conflict. The EU also 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

The humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate with uninterrupted violence and conflict from Government forces and Armed Opposition Groups. 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.

Major challenges

The **magnitude of humanitarian needs is overwhelming** in all parts of the country. The main priorities are treating and evacuating the wounded, providing food aid, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and shelter. Prices of basic commodities continue to rise and the availability of food stocks in many parts of Syria is at risk. With 11.7 million people having fled their homes both inside Syria and to the neighbouring countries, shelter needs are high. Children and the elderly are most at risk.

In the area of **health**, the long-lasting consequences of the conflict with shortages of qualified medical personnel and life-saving medicines, and the destruction of health infrastructure have left many without access to basic medical care. Medical facilities continue to be targeted by aerial bombardments, resulting in fatalities and destruction of facilities. 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.

Despite increasing cross-border activities (under resolution 2165 and 2191), **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. 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. 78 humanitarian workers have been killed inside Syria since the beginning of the conflict.

Refugees from Syria are now the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation with over 4.08 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and the larger region. Countries bordering Syria are approaching a dangerous saturation point, particularly **Lebanon**, which hosts almost 1.2 million Syria refugees and has together with Jordan the largest per capita refugee population in the world. **Turkey** is currently hosting more than 1.9 million Syrian refugees, the largest number of Syrian refugees in one country in the world.

The number of Syrian refugees arriving to Europe seeking international protection has increased in 2015. UNHCR reports that since the beginning of the Syria crisis until August 2015, the total number of asylum applications from Syrians reached 428,735.



The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The European Union is a leading donor in the response to the Syria crisis with over **€4 billion of total budget mobilised by the Commission and Member States collectively in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance.**

In 2015, the Commission has increased its humanitarian assistance to the Syria crisis by **€201 million**, half of which will go to needs inside Syria and the other half to Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq.

An EU comprehensive [strategy](#) has been developed to tackle the crises in Syria and Iraq, which include €1 billion in funding over 2015/16. 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.

During the Third International Pledging Conference for Syria in Kuwait in March 2015, **the EU and its Member States pledged €1.1 billion** – the largest pledge by any donor – in humanitarian and development assistance to the Syria crisis.

Almost half of the Commission's humanitarian assistance goes to immediate life-saving emergency humanitarian operations **inside Syria**. The Commission's humanitarian assistance provides safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, provisions of food, child protection activities and emergency items to people inside Syria in need of humanitarian assistance. **The European Commission's humanitarian aid is supporting over 1.15 million Syrian refugees with the provision of life-saving health assistance and medical care including vaccination programmes of children.**

In **Lebanon**, where there are no official camps, many refugees live in sub-standard shelter such as garages and tents. Through funding of International Non-Governmental Organisations in the country, **the Commission is providing shelter assistance for the benefit of over 110 000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees living in dire housing to improve their living conditions.** The Commission's humanitarian funding in Lebanon also enables the provision of aid to Syrian refugees such as food aid, clean water, sanitation, health services and protection. Counselling and legal assistance and service to survivors of violence is an important area of EU funding as well.

In **Jordan**, the Commission's humanitarian aid goes to food aid, provisions of clean water and sanitation, health services and protection. The majority of the funding goes to Syrian refugees living outside of refugee camps in Jordan, where the majority of those who have fled the war in Syria now live. However, the assistance also helps Syrian refugees in Zaatari and Azraq camps. **With the support of the Commission, UNICEF has initiated an unconditional Child Cash Grant programme to assist ten thousands of children of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee families living in host communities in Jordan.** Under this programme, a monthly cash transfer is made to eligible families, helping to provide the means to meet children's basic needs.

In **Turkey**, the Commission's humanitarian funding is supporting vulnerable refugees in Turkey who have fled violence in both Syria and Iraq, in particular refugees living outside of camps. The Commission's humanitarian funding in Turkey is prioritising programmes that provide about 110 000 of the most vulnerable refugee families across the provinces of Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Mardin, Diyarbakir and Batman with paper or electronic vouchers with which they can buy basic assistance including food and emergency items. Many Syrian children have not received any education for the last years and are at risk of becoming a lost generation. Through the EU Children of Peace initiative, the Commission has allocated humanitarian funding in Turkey in order to prevent a lost generation of Syrian children. **Through the initiative, about 7 000 Syrian children are ensured access to quality education.**

