**Syria Crisis**
November 2015

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**FACTS & FIGURES**

**Population:** 18.2 million (ESCWA 2013)

17.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance:
- 13.5 million in Syria (6.5 million of which are internally displaced)
- 4.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa

**UN & ICRC Appeals for 2015:**
- USD 2.9 billion  
  Syria Strategic Response Plan 2015 (SRP)  
  37% funded as of Nov 12 (OCHA)  
- USD 4.5 billion  
  Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2015-2016 (RPR)  
  50% funded as of Nov 12 (OCHA)  
- CHF 164 million  
  ICRC Emergency Appeal Syria  
  65% funded as of Sept 30 (ICRC)

**Switzerland’s budget since March 2011:**
- CHF 203 million

**Projects realised:**
- 52% in Syria
- 48% in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq & Turkey

**Switzerland’s action lines:**
- Humanitarian aid via humanitarian partner organisations
- Direct actions
- Deployment of technical experts to UN agencies
- Supporting international coordination and humanitarian diplomacy

**SDC presence in the region:**
- Cooperation office in Amman, Jordan
- Programme office in Beirut, Lebanon
- Field office in Qoubayat, Lebanon
- Liaison Office in Ankara, Turkey
- Switzerland’s projects in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey are coordinated by the cooperation office in Amman, Jordan.

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**Syria Crisis at a Glance**

**Swiss Cooperation Strategy Middle East 2015-2018**

As outlined in the Swiss Cooperation Strategy Middle East 2015-2018, Switzerland’s overall goal in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria is to contribute to safe, viable and peaceful living conditions for the conflict-affected and vulnerable people, reducing fragility, preventing and transforming conflicts.

In order to achieve its overall goal, Switzerland focuses on three domains of interventions:

- **Under the Domain Basic Needs and Services,** Switzerland seeks to save lives, reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience by supporting vulnerable populations in improving their access to basic needs and services. Self-reliance and coping mechanisms are to be enhanced while preparedness, response and rehabilitation mechanisms are to be fostered for addressing natural and man-made disaster risks.

- **Under the Domain Protection,** Switzerland seeks to strengthen respect for the international humanitarian law and human rights and to contribute to conflict transformation, as well as to a protective environment for conflict-affected and vulnerable populations including IDPs, refugees and migrants.

- **Under the Domain Water,** Switzerland seeks to enhance resilient, sustainable and conflict-sensitive water management. Interventions aim to increase access to safe water, sanitation and the efficient use of water for food production, to improve the basis for integrated water resources management as well as mitigating water-related disaster risks.

**Switzerland’s budget for the victims of Syria Crisis increases**

At the beginning of 2015, Switzerland has decided to allocate in 2015 CHF 50 Mio to the Syrian crisis. While both addressing humanitarian needs and strengthening resilience, approximately half of the contribution is being allocated for supporting people in need inside Syria, whereas the remaining amount is being disbursed for supporting affected people in the neighboring countries.

Switzerland’s contribution in the Syria region has been increased by CHF 25 million by the end of the year, a decision taken by the Federal Council on 18 September 2015. This brought Switzerland’s allocation since the outbreak of the crisis in 2011 to CHF 203 Mio.
**Context**

Since the outbreak of the crisis in March 2011, the humanitarian situation in the region has drastically deteriorated. The population gravely suffers from the impact of continuous fighting, human rights violations, the violation of international humanitarian law as well as difficult or no access to water, food and basic medical care.

Nearly 4.5 million people are currently in need in areas that are difficult to access, which means they can only be reached on a sporadic basis. Of this total number, 390,000 people live in besieged areas, which can only be reached sporadically or cannot be reached at all. The intense hostilities and changing territorial control between multitudes of armed groups has resulted in a confusing and partly unpredictable security situation. A lack of respect for international humanitarian law, including targeted attacks on aid workers, poses a considerable security risk. Bureaucratic hurdles creating restrictive working conditions for aid organisations make the delivery of humanitarian aid even more difficult.

**Swiss Humanitarian Aid**

Switzerland’s allocation to mitigate the humanitarian impact of the Syria crisis since its outbreak stands at CHF 203 million, addressing humanitarian needs and strengthening resilience inside Syria as well as in the neighbouring countries. Switzerland’s aid has four action lines:

1. assistance for the affected civilian population in Syria and neighbouring countries via humanitarian partner organisations (UN agencies, ICRC, NGOs);
2. direct actions (implemented by SDC itself);
3. lending experts in the fields of shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and cash assistance from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit to partner organisations (so far, a total of 23 Swiss experts have been seconded to UN agencies in and around Syria); and
4. engagement in humanitarian diplomacy for improving access to people in need of assistance, as well as support of international efforts of aid coordination.

**Switzerland’s direct actions:**

**School Rehabilitation in Jordan and North Lebanon**

- Total cost: CHF 4.33 million
- Number of beneficiaries: So far, 28,450 students in 42 (13 in Lebanon; 29 in Jordan). Currently, 28,500 students in 42 schools (14 in Lebanon; 28 in Jordan).

Around half of all Syrian refugees in the region are children, which is putting a lot of pressure on schools and the education system to also provide schooling to Syrian refugee children. In Lebanon, there are more than 625,000 Syrian refugee children. Despite absorbing 90,000 refugee students into public schools in 2014, 280,000 school-age refugees are still out of school. In Jordan, Syrian refugee children have been accepted in public schools. Nevertheless, more than half of the 220,000 school-age Syrian children are not enrolled in education. Those enrolled have to take their lessons in overcrowded classrooms with double shifts. In view of this, the crisis in Syria is threatening to create a ‘lost generation’, as children lose their homes, their family members and their future.

Switzerland aims at facilitating access to education for both Syrian refugees and local children, by refurbishing schools in Jordan (since June 2012) and North Lebanon (since May 2013). The works include improvement of infrastructure, repair of electrical installations as well as sanitation units, furnishing of classrooms and refurbishing of the painting. The projects also aim at strengthening the students’ affiliations towards their schools and at improving their basic skills to conduct voluntary initiatives. It further helps integrate Syrian refugees into the schools. The Principality of Liechtenstein contributes CHF 750,000 to the direct action in Jordan; the Federal Office for Migration supported the first phase of the Lebanon project with CHF 500,000.

**Funding contributions**

Funding contributions are intended to support the civilian population dependent on aid in Syria and its neighbouring countries (local host communities, internally displaced persons and refugees). The following partners have been supported:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisations</th>
<th>Amount (Mio. CHF)</th>
<th>Organisations</th>
<th>Amount (Mio. CHF)</th>
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<td>ICRC, IFRC, Swiss Red Cross</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
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<td>UN-HABITAT</td>
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<td>Intl. NGOs and local aid organisations</td>
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<td>World Bank</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
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