



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: **4.5 million**

Estimated number of internally displaced: **6.6 million** (UNOCHA)

Number of refugees - registered & awaiting registration: **4,815,540 (UNHCR)**

- Lebanon: **1,033,513**
- Turkey: **Over 3 million**
- Jordan: **657 203**
- Iraq: **249 395**
- Egypt & North Africa: **117 168** (UNHCR, Government of Turkey)

EU funding

Total (Commission and Member States):
Over **€ 5 billion**

In addition, pledged at the London conference :
over **€ 3 billion**

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00

Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72

email:

echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



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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 a leading provider of international aid. More than **€5 billion have been mobilised for relief and recovery assistance** to Syrians in the country and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. In addition, the EU has pledged €3 billion at the 'Supporting Syria' conference held in London in February 2016.
- The European Commission is funding **humanitarian programmes carried out by its humanitarian partners 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, women and other vulnerable groups, 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 and sustained 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 continues to deteriorate in Syria with intensified fighting, high levels of violence, widespread disregard for the rules of international law and the obligation to protect civilians, and major human rights abuses committed by all parties. The open conflict is increasingly hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid especially in Northern Syria: supply roads are often disrupted or closed and humanitarian organisations have been forced to downscale or suspend operations in several areas due to insecurity.

The situation in and around Aleppo city and Idlib governorate is dramatic: heavy bombing and intense fighting caused countless civilian casualties and damages to critical infrastructures, leaving more than 2 million people without water and electricity and in fear of besiegement. Aid delivery to the eastern part of Aleppo remains extremely difficult due to ongoing airstrikes. The targeting of health facilities continues unabated, hindering the access to healthcare for all citizens.

The Syrian population is highly vulnerable and 13.5 million of people are in need of humanitarian assistance: 6.6 million are internally displaced, 4.6 million people in hard-to-reach areas, including over 480 000 besieged. 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 Syria. 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 over 11 million people having fled their homes both inside Syria and to the neighbouring countries, shelter needs are high. 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 and the destruction of health infrastructure, leaving many without access to basic medical care. Medical facilities continue to be targeted by aerial bombardments, resulting in fatalities and destruction of facilities. Impeding the delivery of essential medical supplies, equipment and treatment, continues to be used as a weapon of war while there are continuous reports on the removal of medicines and medical supplies from aid convoys and attacks on medical facilities and personnel.

Despite increasing cross-border humanitarian aid 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, while the numbers of those in need of assistance keep increasing throughout the country. The [latest report](#) of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139, 2165 and 2191 underline this vanishing humanitarian space.

Refugees from Syria are now the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation with over 4.8 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and the wider region. Countries bordering Syria are reaching dangerous saturation points, particularly **Lebanon**, which hosts around 1.1 million Syria refugees and has, along with Jordan, the largest per capita refugee population in the world. **Turkey** is currently hosting more than 3 million Syrian refugees, 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 **€5 billion of total budget mobilised by the Commission and Member States collectively in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance. In addition, the EU has pledged over €3 billion at the London conference on 4 February 2016.**

The **€445 million** EU humanitarian assistance to the Syria crisis **for 2016** will continue addressing the needs inside Syria as well as the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries. An EU comprehensive [strategy](#) was launched at the beginning of 2015 to tackle the crises in Syria and Iraq, which included €1 billion in funding over 2015/16.

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 NGOs in the country, the Commission is providing shelter assistance for the benefit of over 112 000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees living in dire housing to improve their living conditions. The Commission's humanitarian funding in Lebanon also supports the provision of basic needs, such as clean water, sanitation and hygiene, health services and protection. Counselling and legal assistance to survivors of violence is another major area of the EU contribution.

In **Jordan**, with 83% of the refugees living in urban settings, the European Commission supports the most vulnerable refugees through cash assistance as this is considered the most cost-efficient and dignified method. In 2016, the €53 million of EU humanitarian funding is supporting the emergency needs of more than 70.000 refugees stranded along the North-Eastern border. The EU is working with international organisations such as WFP for food distribution, UNICEF for education, water provision, and nutrition, as well as ICRC for health and UNHCR for registration of new arrivals. Next to these interventions, ECHO is also pursuing its support in favour of the most vulnerable (refugees and most vulnerable Jordanians) by funding projects in several sectors like protection, health, winterization and basic needs ECHO, responding for example to the need of the refugees recently admitted in Jordan and ensuring their basic assistance and shelter in the Azraq Camp.

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 of camps. The Commission's programmes provide basic assistance to the most vulnerable refugees, 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. On 3 June 2016, ECHO published a **Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for Turkey mobilising €505.65 million** of the budget of the Facility. €165 million has already been contracted for humanitarian operations in Turkey until August 2016.

