

MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

EU SUPPORT TO LEBANON

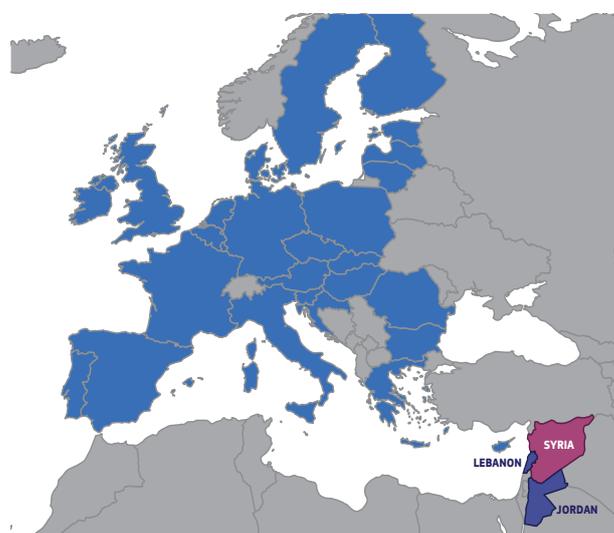


The European Union pays tribute to the outstanding efforts Lebanon is making since the outset of the Syrian refugee crisis. The EU remains deeply committed to assisting Lebanon in dealing with the crisis. The **European Union is the leading donor** in the international response to the Syrian crisis with an **overall total of over €9.5 billion** from the EU budget and Member States collectively allocated in humanitarian and development assistance since the start of the conflict in 2011. This support goes both to Syrians in their country, and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt.

At the London conference on “Supporting Syria and the region” at the beginning of February 2016, the EU pledged **€1 billion** for Lebanon and Jordan for the years 2016 and 2017. This commitment was confirmed at the Brussels Conference on “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region” held on 4-5 April 2017, during which the EU reiterated the pledge made in London a year earlier and confirmed its willingness to have similar levels of support for 2018 (€560 million pledged for Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) and maintain the level of engagement in 2019. The international community confirmed EUR 5.6 billion / USD 6.0 billion in funding to support humanitarian, resilience and development activities in 2017 for the Syria crisis response, and EUR 3.5 billion for the period 2018-2020.

The European Union and Lebanon adopted **Partnership Priorities and a Compact** in December 2016 that includes the mutual commitments through which the EU and Lebanon will fulfil the pledges they made at the London and Brussels Conferences. The objective is to improve the living conditions of both refugees temporarily staying in Lebanon and of vulnerable host communities. It outlines specific mutual commitments to address the impact of the Syrian crisis and aims to turn the situation into an opportunity to improve the socio-economic prospects, security, stability and resilience of the whole Lebanon. In turn Lebanon commits to ease the temporary stay of Syrian refugees, in particular regarding their residency status.

Overall, the European Commission has allocated **more than €1.2 billion in assistance** to refugees and vulnerable communities in Lebanon since the beginning of the crises.



This includes:

- **€439 million** from the humanitarian budget, including **€85 million** for 2017
- **close to €250 million** from the European Neighbourhood Instrument mainly to support Lebanese institutions to provide Lebanese vulnerable communities and Syrian refugees with access to basic services
- **more than €42 million** from the Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability to address longer term resilience needs of affected civilians, both refugees and Lebanese host communities
- **€1.2 million** from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
- **close to €290 million** through the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the ‘Madad Fund’, to address longer term resilience needs of Syrian refugees and support Lebanese host communities and the national administration with a focus on increasing access for refugees to education and training, as well as livelihoods and health

Lebanon hosts more than one million Syrian refugees, representing about 25% of the country's population, which is the highest per-capita concentration of refugees worldwide.

This support comes **on top of the over €219 million** in regular programmed bilateral cooperation for Lebanon under the European Neighbourhood Policy, The main part of non-humanitarian funding is allocated to the education sector, but also towards health, livelihoods and local infrastructures.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE EU RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS

- Protect and assist Syrian and Palestinian refugees
- Mitigate the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon, targeting the medium and long term needs of both refugees and Lebanese vulnerable people
- Reinforce the policy dialogue with the Government of Lebanon and the capacities of existing Lebanese institutions responsible for managing the crisis, at national and local levels
- Contribute to the provision of basic services such as free public education, primary and secondary health care, child and women protection, psycho-social support as well as access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Support the most vulnerable municipalities in improving their infrastructure and economic recovery

HUMANITARIAN AID TO LEBANON

Since the beginning of the crisis, humanitarian assistance has focused on responding to emerging needs of the most vulnerable refugees, faced with steadily increasing socio-economic vulnerability, inadequate living standards and growing protection concerns (more than 70% live below the poverty line of USD 3,84 a day).

The EU humanitarian funding addresses the needs of both refugees and vulnerable host communities. It has contributed to assist refugees in meeting their basic needs through cash assistance, to provide secondary healthcare for lifesaving cases, to improve living conditions and access to water and sanitation needs of families living in precarious and substandard settings, and to provide support to Education and Emergencies programming. The provision of ad hoc protection monitoring and assistance remains critical for refugees faced with legal concerns as well as exposure to violence, harassment and limiting access to basic services.

Since 2012, the EU's humanitarian aid to Lebanon reached around 750.000 Syrian refugees.

Number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon:
1 001 051*

Number of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon:
270 000 - 280 000* *



Number of Palestinian refugees from Syria:
32 000* * *

Number of Iraqi refugees in Lebanon:
6 000

*Source: UNHCR, <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122> (as of 30 June 2017)

**Source: OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, November 2016 (<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Syria/Lebanon%20Humanitarian%20Bulletin/OCHA-HumanitarianBulletin-Issue25-November2016EN.pdf>). To note that since 1948, about 450,000 Palestinians have been registered with UNRWA as refugees in Lebanon.

***Source: UNRWA (as of December 2016), available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/prs-lebanon>

PREVENTING A LOST GENERATION OF SYRIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

According to UNHCR, close to 417.000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are aged between 3 and 14 years old. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that nearly half of Syrian refugee children do not have access to any form of education, exposing them to physical and/or psychological violence, child labour and exploitation, early marriage, and recruitment by armed groups. At the London conference, the participants committed that by the end of the 2016/2017 school year, all refugee children and vulnerable children in host communities will be in quality education with equal access for girls and boys.

Since the start of the Syrian refugee crisis, the EU has committed around to €246 million for education and child protection purposes in Lebanon. These funds are spent on formal and non-formal education, including providing refugee students with a safe environment where to learn and exchange while supporting the improvement of the quality of education and institutional capacities in the sector.

In particular, since 2012 EU funds, channelled largely through UNICEF and UNHCR have been paying enrolment fees for around 240,000 refugee children from Syria (6-14 age group).

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL INVESTMENT PLAN (EIP)

The European Commission proposed in September 2016 an ambitious External Investment Plan (EIP) in order to support investment in our partner countries in the European Neighbourhood (and in Africa). Lebanon will also be eligible for this new initiative. The Commission's proposal is currently under discussion in the Council and European Parliament. The EIP will offer an integrated framework for a partnership enabling full cooperation between the EU, Member States, International Financial Institutions, other donors, public authorities and the private sector.

DELIVERY OF AID

Since 2015, an increasing part of non-humanitarian aid for Syria's neighbouring countries to cope with the refugee crisis is channelled through the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the 'Madad Fund'. The Trust Fund aims to bring a more coherent and integrated EU response to the crisis by merging various EU financial instruments and contributions from Member States and other international donors into one single flexible and quick mechanism. The Trust Fund primarily addresses longer term resilience needs of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, as well as the hosting communities and their administration. In the future, the Trust Fund may start financing resilience activities inside Syria and could become a funding tool for reconstruction, resettlement and governance support following a political settlement of the crisis. With contributions from 22 EU Member States, amounting to over €93 million, as well as Turkey and contributions from various EU budget instruments, the Fund **has reached a total volume of over €1 billion to date**. Projects focusing on education, livelihoods and health have already been approved, **covering a total of €1040 million**. €449 million have been contracted to the Trust Fund's implementing partners on the ground.