



SYRIA CRISIS

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

(as of 30 January 2014)

Estimated number of people affected by the crisis in need of humanitarian assistance:
9 300 000

Estimated number of internally displaced:
6.5 million (UNOCHA)

Number of refugees - registered & awaiting registration (UNHCR & GOT)

- Lebanon: 897 613
- Jordan: 593 186
- Turkey: 580 304
- Iraq: 217 144
- Egypt & North Africa: 151 368

TOTAL : 2 439 615

Total European Union (Commission and Member States) funding to date:

over € 2.6 billion
(which includes: €615 million from the EU humanitarian aid budget and €526 million from other EU funding instruments. €1.1 billion from Member States plus an additional humanitarian and development pledge of €385 million from Member States at Kuwait II).

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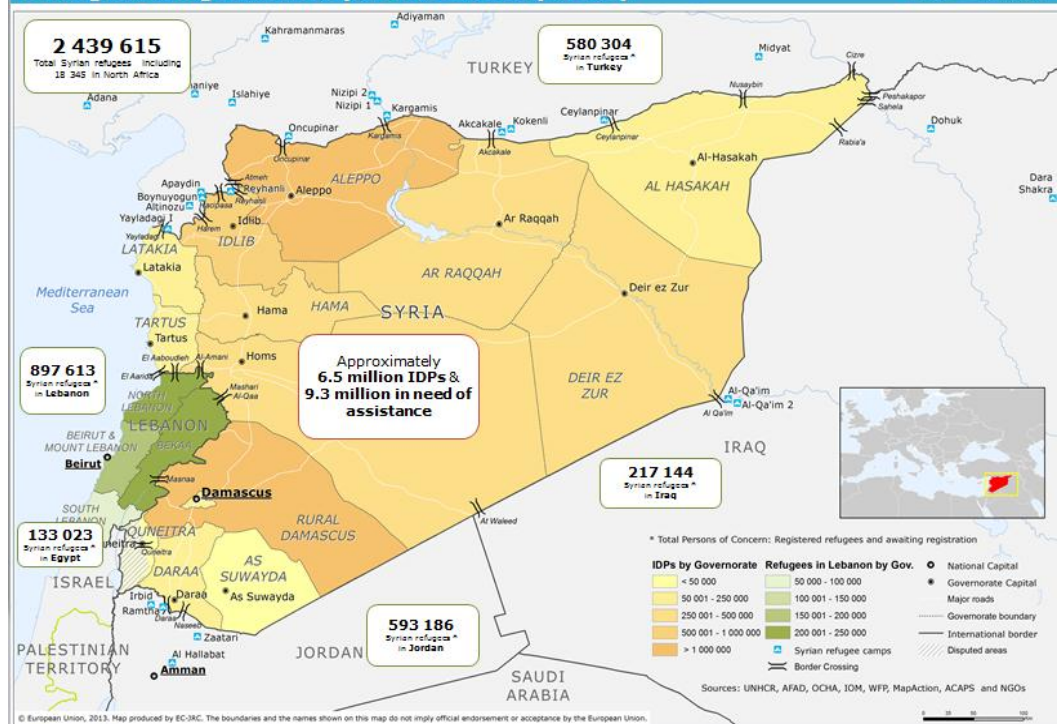
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Syria Crisis – Internal displacement and Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries (as of 30 January 2014)



Key messages

The EU will continue to advocate through all possible channels:

- For **increased and unfettered access to conflict zones** and a strengthened presence of international humanitarian workers on the ground;
- For **safe and full access of health teams participating in the polio immunization campaign** in Syria to ensure the necessary measures for the timely delivery of vaccines, vaccination equipment and supplies countrywide;
- For all people in need to have **access to humanitarian aid**, including the provision of **food. Deliberate starvation of population is a war crime.**
- For the **respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, and the protection of civilians, including humanitarian workers.
- For all **civilians to be protected against violence, especially children and women.** Schools and children's spaces should remain places of safe refuge;
- For humanitarian and political tracks to be kept completely separate in order to facilitate access to those in need;
- For countries neighbouring Syria to keep borders open in line with international humanitarian law principles for the passage of all civilians without distinction at the same time as acknowledging the generosity of neighbouring countries in hosting Syrian refugees up until now.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Situation in Country

The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate as violence intensifies and fighting continues throughout the country. About 2.5 million Syrians are estimated to be living in hard to reach areas with limited access to humanitarian assistance, including for example, areas in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Dar'a and Homs. According to the UN, the number of Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance has risen dramatically to 9.3 million people, up from 6.8 million in June. Similarly, the UN estimates that the previous figure of 4.25 million internally displaced persons is now more than 6.5 million. Every day of violence adds to this number. ECHO partners **highlight the extremely vulnerable situation of large numbers of people in need in inaccessible areas under siege.**

There are now over 2.4 million refugees (registered and awaiting-registration) in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt and North Africa.

There is also a growing concern for refugees living in Syria (Palestinian, Iraqi, Afghan, Somali and Sudanese), whose vulnerability is rising. The conflict increasingly implicates groups of the population such as Kurds and Palestinians. Palestinians are getting further drawn into the conflict and numerous fatalities have been reported. Many Palestinians are displaced inside Syria or have fled the country; UNRWA indicates that almost all of the 540 000 Palestinian refugees from Syria now are in need of assistance.

Major needs and related problems

The nature and magnitude of the humanitarian needs are critical in all parts of the country, be they in Government-, opposition- held or disputed areas. **The focus is on life-saving activities.** Treating and evacuating the wounded, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene, health, shelter and food assistance, are the main priorities. **Protection remains central in the conflict**, with very serious allegations of abuses reported against women and children, adding to the constant reports of indiscriminate killings and extra-judicial arrests and lately the use of chemical weapons. Food prices have risen dramatically. The availability of food stocks in many parts of Syria is becoming an increasing concern. There are increasing reports that the populations in areas under siege are on the point of starvation. Deliberate starvation of population is a war crime.

Humanitarian access in Syria has become ever more precarious, above all in disputed areas, exacerbated by security issues and cumbersome administrative and operational restrictions. Nevertheless, efforts continue to deliver humanitarian aid throughout the country, both in Government and opposition held areas, as well as in zones of active fighting. The situation in rural Damascus, Northern and Southern Syria is particularly difficult. Cross-line deliveries organized by United Nations agencies have reached on various occasions the areas of Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor and Idlib. However, big gaps remain and various cross-lines humanitarian operations have had to be cancelled for security reasons.

Assaults on humanitarian workers have also continued unabated (so far, 34 SARC volunteers and 14 UN staff members have been killed and ambulances and UN vehicles are still being attacked and humanitarian workers are being kidnapped). Concerns related to the security and safety of humanitarian personnel and operations remain as high as ever in all parts of Syria. Beyond the border, the security situation in both Lebanon and Iraq has further deteriorated over the past few weeks, and are a cause of grave concern.

The overall number of refugees fleeing Syria rose more than four-fold during 2013, and, as already mentioned, has now reached over 2.4 million. This number is continuing to rise as hostilities grow inside the country. The continuous influx of Syrians is increasing the burden on the host communities and is fuelling tensions in some areas. Countries bordering Syria are approaching a dangerous saturation point; particularly Lebanon where there are over 880 000. The neighbouring countries need urgent support to continue keeping borders open and assisting refugees.

A **regional response strategy to the polio outbreak** was launched, comprising a multi-country response across the Middle East. Under the coordination of the Ministries of Health, WHO and UNICEF, synchronized vaccination campaigns – targeting 23 million children under five with an estimated total budget of \$ 39 million– are being planned or are already underway in Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey. Funding-wise, the Commission was prepared for such a health scare and, through its humanitarian budget, has already allocated around €29 million to water and sanitation projects inside Syria, which are especially relevant to the prevention and spread of diseases, including polio. Additionally, €27 million has been committed to healthcare out of which € 13.5 million has been allocated to WHO, with part of the funding especially targetting the polio campaign. The Commission stands ready to increase its support and provide specific further funding specifically allocated to the polio vaccination campaign if needed.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

European Commission and Member States

The EU with Member States is **the largest donor in the region** with a total of **over €2.6 billion mobilised** to respond to humanitarian and development needs. This figure includes more than €1.1 billion in humanitarian assistance from Member States as well as their latest humanitarian and development pledges announced in Kuwait on 15 January 2014 amounting to a total of €385 million. The two largest pledges announced during Kuwait by Member States came from the **United Kingdom which announced €120 million** and **Germany with €80 million**. The figure also includes **€ 615 million from the Commission's humanitarian aid budget, including the additional €100 million pledged in Kuwait**. In-kind assistance has also been provided to Turkey and Jordan through the activation of the European Civil Protection Mechanism, which led to the delivery of ambulances, blankets, heaters and other items for a total value € 2.5 million. **€526 million** have been mobilised through other **non-humanitarian EU instruments** (i.e. for education, support to host communities and local societies) and includes the additional €65 million pledged in Kuwait from the Commission's development budget.

Outreach and coordination with humanitarian partners

At the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 January 2013, the EU expressed its support for the Geneva II peace conference which should be the first step in a process that will lead to a political solution. On the humanitarian aspects of the crisis, the EU considered it important to promote confidence building measures which would lead to agreements on local ceasefires, the lifting of sieges on certain urban areas and thereby improve humanitarian access. It expressed its concern about the plight of all vulnerable groups and ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians and once again **called on all parties to the conflict to implement in full the 2 October 2013 Presidential Statement of the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria.** The EU also reiterated its call for a humanitarian resolution by the UN Security Council given the unprecedented scale and nature of the crisis. It again called on all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, to take all appropriate measures to facilitate safe and unhindered humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance in the entirety of the Syrian territory, including across conflict lines and across borders from neighbouring countries.

For the purpose of the implementation of the Presidential Statement an informal 21-nation High-Level group meeting on Syria took place in Geneva on 19 December 2013. The meeting, organized by UNOCHA included among its participants all five permanent members of the Security Council, as well as Saudi Arabia and Iran. The EU is an active member of the group. The next meeting is scheduled in Rome on 3 February.

On 16 December 2013, the United Nations launched the largest appeal in its history with the revised Syrian Government Response Plan and Syrian Regional Response Plan calling for US\$6.5 billion in total, to provide humanitarian aid to Syria and neighbouring countries. Both plans include unmet requirements from the previous versions:

- **Revised Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan:** the sixth revision (publicly released 17 December 2013) appeals for US\$ 2.27 billion for the whole 2014 and foresees continuing humanitarian needs and large-scale displacement inside the country. Actual estimated beneficiary figures are: 9.3 million people in need, including 6.5 million displaced.
- **Revised Syrian Regional Response Plan** (Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt): the sixth revision is based on projections of continuing humanitarian needs and large-scale displacement into neighbouring countries during 2014. The US\$4.26 billion appeal is to provide help to both refugees and host communities. This latest appeal represents the support plans of more than 100 partner organizations – UN agencies, national and international NGOs – who are working together to address the needs of Syrians.

To agree on further concrete steps for the response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighbouring countries, on 18 December 2013, **ECHO hosted a meeting attended by Principals of UN Agencies, ICRC and several donor countries.** A statement was issued signed by Commissioner Georgieva, Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director UN World Food Programme, Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Anthony Lake, Executive Director UN Children's Fund **calling for decisive action to increase humanitarian access and funding for Syria crisis.** The meeting was followed by a hearing in the European Parliament.

In support to the 2014 UN appeals and to financially respond to the estimated needs on the ground, a pledging conference – **Kuwait II – took place on 15 January.** The EU and its Member States had already honoured their commitments in 2013 and delivered aid far beyond the pledge made at Kuwait 1.

They also pledged an additional €515 million (€165 million by the EU and €385 million by the Member States). The total amount pledged at the conference was US\$2.4 billion,

At the conference, special appeals were made regarding the children of Syria which called on the international community to prevent "a lost generation". In this context, an awareness- and fund-raising, multi-organisation campaign led by UNICEF/UNHCR/Save the Children/World Vision was launched on 7 January 2014 using social media. The campaign named "Champion the Children of Syria" is actively supported by Commission. The campaign will culminate in a worldwide "thunderclap" on 15 March, the third anniversary of the start of the crisis.

An **international peace conference** – referred to as **Geneva II** – organised by the UN began in Montreux 22 January 2014. The "technical" discussions between the warring factions commenced in Geneva on 24 January with the aim to end the violence and achieve a comprehensive agreement for a political settlement. It is hoped that the conference will lead to an improvement in access for humanitarian organisations to reach the vulnerable populations in need throughout the whole of Syria and across fighting lines.

The Commission's Humanitarian Aid department is in regular and frequent contact with the main humanitarian players (UN agencies, ICRC, NGO's) in both the field and in Brussels. The Commission is also actively assisting Member States with information and advice about the humanitarian situation on the ground. Through its network of humanitarian experts, information can be provided rapidly and regularly.

Provision of humanitarian aid funded by the Commission is channeled through **mandated and professional international organizations** in accordance with the **humanitarian principles**; aid is provided to all those in need, irrespective of their creed or political affiliation.

