

Snapshot: Impact of EU response to Syria crisis

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Seven years of war in Syria have taken an enormous toll on the civilian population in the country, causing one of the worst humanitarian crises the world has faced since World War II. The conflict is also having an increasingly destabilising impact on the wider region, through the displacement of people, the spread of terrorism, economic disruption, and the exacerbation of political and sectarian tensions.

The European Union continues to call and work for an end to the violence in Syria. The EU firmly believes that only a credible political solution in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254[1] and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué [2] will end the war and ensure the long term stability of Syria and the region.



We cannot afford to stop working for peace (...) we, the European Union, do not give up on the Syrian people and will call to the rest of the world to do the same"

Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the Commission



Since the outbreak of the conflict in 2011, the EU has collectively (EU budget and Member States) mobilised more than **€10.6 billion** to help those affected by the Syrian war. The EU is the **largest provider of international aid in response to the Syria crisis**, delivering humanitarian, stabilisation and resilience assistance inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

HOW IS THE EU HELPING?

- **Supporting the UN-led intra-Syrian negotiations** towards a genuine political transition
- Strengthening the political opposition to promote a **meaningful and inclusive transition in Syria**
- **Saving lives** by addressing the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Syrians across the country and in the region
- Strengthening Syrian civil society organisations to promote **democracy, human rights and freedom of speech**

- Promoting **accountability** for war crimes with a view to facilitating a national reconciliation process and transitional justice
- Supporting the **resilience of the Syrian population** and society, as well as of refugees and their host communities in neighbouring countries.

The EU will be ready to assist in the reconstruction of Syria only once a comprehensive, genuine and inclusive political transition is firmly under way, negotiated by the Syrian parties in conflict on the bases of UNSC Resolution 2254 and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué.



Sa'adia, 19, lives in the outskirts of Amman, Jordan, after having fled the war in Syria.

Sa'adia is now attending a mobile class for host communities and Syrian refugee children, many of whom have been out of school for months if not years. She writes poems, like this one for her best friend Rawan: "My friend, I would like to write you a speech to prove my friendship. So I took a pen from my bone, the ink from my blood and the white pages of paper from my heart".

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EU STRATEGY FOR SYRIA

Through its strategy for Syria, the EU works towards achieving the following goals:

ONE SYRIA — a united country with territorial integrity for all Syrian citizens.

A DEMOCRATIC SYRIA — a legitimate government and a pluralistic political system with respect for the rule of law.

A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE SYRIA — a country where the identities of all ethnic and religious groups are protected and all have equal access to government.

A STRONG AND SECURE SYRIA — an effective state with functioning institutions and services, focusing on citizens' security, a single national army and accountable police and security forces.

A STABLE SYRIA — a stable political system and a strong economy, providing education and healthcare to its population, maintaining good relations with all its neighbours.

Achieving these goals will enable the voluntary, dignified and safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

BRUSSELS II CONFERENCE ON SYRIA

The EU will host the Brussels II Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" on 24-25 April 2018. The conference, which will be co-chaired by the EU and the UN, seeks to maintain the focus of the international community on the Syria crisis and explore how to best support the UN-led political process in this difficult time.

Brussels II is meant as the main 2018 meeting to review the Syria crisis together with major donors and the international community. It will cover three key fronts: political, humanitarian and regional/development.

POLITICAL

the Conference will reaffirm international and regional consensus to end the conflict and give a political push to the **intra-Syria negotiations led by the UN**.

HUMANITARIAN

the Conference will continue to push for more **access** and **protection** of civilians, aid workers and facilities.

REGIONAL/DEVELOPMENT

Brussels II will maintain international engagement in delivering assistance to Syrians, inside Syria and in neighbouring countries, and promote both resilience across the region and economic recovery of countries hosting refugees. It will take stock of the €5.6 billion in grants and €27.9 billion in loans announced at Brussels I and call for further pledges for 2018 and beyond.

THE EU IS ACTIVE ON THE GROUND

Since 2011, the EU's humanitarian assistance has reached **millions of people** in need inside Syria and in neighbouring refugee-hosting countries. Nearly **€1.65 billion** have helped deliver humanitarian assistance regionally, including €753.6 million to provide first-line emergency response and post-emergency response inside Syria, in the following key sectors: **food; health; shelter** and **emergency household items; water, sanitation** and **hygiene; protection** and **education in emergency**.

The EU also provides substantial support to neighbouring refugee-host countries (primarily Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon) where more than **2.5 million vulnerable refugees and host communities** accessed **shelter, cash assistance, life-saving health** and **medical assistance** as well as **psycho-social support** and **protection in 2017 alone**.

As well as emergency assistance, over **€3.4 billion** have been mobilised in support of resilience programmes addressing the medium-term needs of civilians inside Syria as well as of refugees and hosting communities in the region, including Palestine refugees.

In 2015, the **Facility for Refugees in Turkey** was created with a total budget of €3 billion to be mobilised in 2016-17, to help ensure that the needs of refugees and host communities in Turkey are addressed. Some **72 projects** have been supported focusing on **humanitarian assistance, education, migration management, health, municipal infrastructure**, and **socio-economic support** to both refugees and host communities in Turkey.

The **Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis** has contributions and pledges from 22 EU Member States and Turkey, amounting to €150 million, and contributions from various EU instruments. The Fund has reached a total volume of **€1.5 billion** and supports projects focusing on **education, livelihoods, health, socio-economic support, water and waste infrastructure** for a total of **€1.2 billion**.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

IN SYRIA, SINCE 2016:



23 million emergency health services were provided all over Syria



Around **7 million** people had access to **clean, safe water**



At least **11.3 million vaccines** were administered to children

IN JORDAN



650,000 Syrian refugees, most of them women and children, have been provided with health, food and basic needs assistance, winterisation support, shelter, water and sanitation, psychosocial support and protection



Over **400,000** Jordanians and Syrians and more than 12,000 households will have access to running and drinking water, and better access to waste services by the end of 2019



Over **130,000** Syrian children have been enrolled in public schools during the 2017-2018 school year

IN LEBANON



Around **750,000** Syrian refugees received EU humanitarian assistance



Over **100,000** Lebanese and Syrians will have access to improved running and drinking water at reduced costs by the end of 2019



Over **3500** Syrian refugees and host communities have participated in skills training programmes on employability, vocational training and entrepreneurship since 2016

IN TURKEY*



About **1.2 million** people were helped to cover their basic needs through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)



500,000 Syrian refugee children have access to education and 125 solid structure and 50 prefabricated schools built



The families of over **266,000** refugee children received financial support for their education through the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education programme (CCTE)

*Through the Facility for Refugees

[1] The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 was unanimously adopted on 18 December 2015. It calls for a ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access and political settlement in Syria.

[2] The Geneva Communiqué was issued on 30 June 2012 after a meeting of the UN-backed Action Group for Syria. It laid out a six-point plan intended to stop the violence and move the two sides towards a political settlement. It was endorsed in the Security Council Resolution 2118/2013

Languages:

- العربية
- Русский