



Syria Crisis: European Commission announces €445 million in humanitarian aid

Brussels, 15 March 2016

The support is part of the Commission's pledge made at the conference 'Supporting Syria and the Region' held earlier this year in London, where the EU and the Member States pledged over €3 billion to assist the Syrian people this year.

EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management, Christos **Stylianides**, said

"Today is yet another sad milestone in the world's worst humanitarian disaster since the Second World War which now enters its sixth year, with over 13 million Syrians in need of lifesaving aid in their country alone. The European Union is committed to supporting the Syrian people, for as long as it takes. Today's funding will support the most vulnerable Syrians inside the country and in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. We need more unconditional humanitarian access now, more than ever to build on the recent efforts during the Cessation of hostilities in the country."

Funding will be channelled through the United Nations, International Organisations, and international NGO partners, and will respond to life-threatening needs in the areas of food aid, health, water, sanitation and hygiene as well as education. It will be allocated per country as follows: Syria (€140 million), Lebanon (€87 million), Jordan (€53 million) and Turkey (€165 million).

Background

After five years of conflict the humanitarian situation in Syria remains deeply troubling with more than 50% of the population displaced inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

Emergency humanitarian aid

Inside Syria, thanks to lifesaving aid provided by the Commission, some 2 million people have gained access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene items, 850 000 people have received food, 1 million people have received non-food items and shelter, and 350 000 children have been covered by child protection programmes.

In Jordan, the Commission's humanitarian aid is helping more than 350.000 Syrian refugees.

In Lebanon, through its partners, the EU's humanitarian aid reaches around 665.000 people.

In Turkey, EU humanitarian aid is funding the provisions of food, health assistance and protection through humanitarian partners and is now being channelled to the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. On 4 March 2016, the EU announced [€40 million in humanitarian aid](#) through the World Food Programme (WFP) working in close cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent as part of the first allocation to the Facility.

The EU's humanitarian aid is impartial and independent and goes to people in need regardless of ethnic or religious considerations.

Overall EU assistance

The EU is the leading donor in the international response to the Syrian crisis, with over €5 billion from the EU and Member States collectively in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance.

In this context, the third board meeting of the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis will take place on 22 March. A series of new projects in sectors such as education, local development, health will be submitted to the Board for approval.

Since its establishment in December 2014, most non-humanitarian aid for Syria's neighbouring countries is channelled through the "Madad Fund" (EUTF), which aims to bring a more integrated EU response to the crisis and primarily addresses the longer term resilience needs of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. Since the beginning of this year the mandate of the EUTF has been extended to operate also in the Western Balkans, which has also

been impacted by the far-reaching consequences of this unique crisis.

[Factsheet](#): EU support in response to the Syrian crisis

IP/16/824

Press contacts:

[Daniel PUGLISI](#) (+32 2 296 91 40)

[Alexandre POLACK](#) (+32 2 299 06 77)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)