

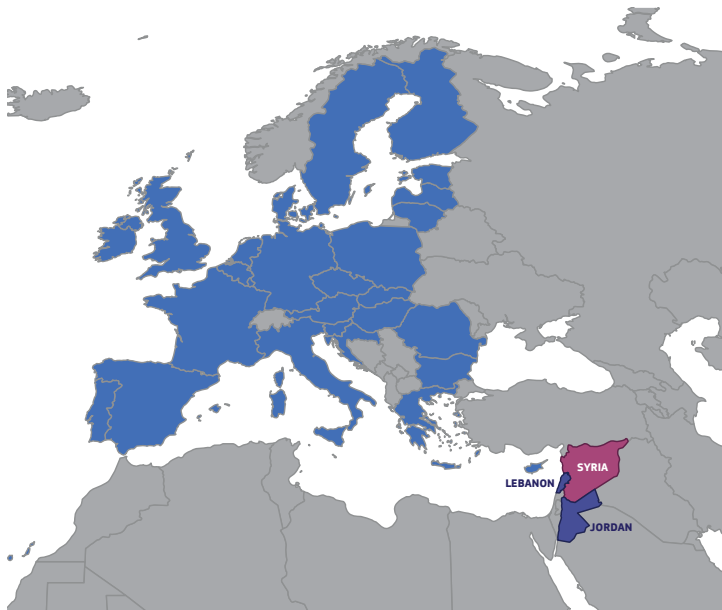
MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

EU SUPPORT TO JORDAN

The EU pays tribute to the outstanding efforts Jordan is making since the outset of the Syrian refugee crisis. The EU remains deeply committed to assisting Jordan in dealing with the crisis. Overall, the EU is the leading donor in the international response to the Syrian crisis, with over **€5.5 billion** from the EU and Member States collectively allocated in humanitarian and development assistance. This support goes both to Syrians in their country, and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, as well as Iraq and Turkey.

At the London conference on “Supporting Syria and the region” in February 2016, the EU pledged **€1 billion** for Jordan and Lebanon for the years 2016 and 2017. Jordan is expected to receive significant additional support in tackling the refugee crisis.

In Jordan, there are over 639 704 registered Syrian refugees, equal to over 10% of the country's total population. In addition, large number of Palestinian and Iraqi refugees reside in Jordan since before the outbreak of the Syrian crisis.



Overall, the European Commission has allocated almost **€637 million** in assistance to refugees and vulnerable communities in Jordan.

This includes:

- more than **€251 million** from the humanitarian budget, including **€53 million** for 2016
- **€180 million** from the Macro Financial Assistance Instrument
- **€170 million** from the European Neighbourhood Instrument
- more than **€30 million** from the Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability.

This support comes on top of the over **€500 million** in regular programmed bilateral cooperation for Jordan under the European Neighbourhood Policy, which brings the **overall amount to €1.13 billion** since 2011.

Number of Syrian refugees in Jordan:
639 704

Number of Palestine refugees in Jordan:
2 097 338

Number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan:
57 140



HUMANITARIAN AID TO JORDAN

Since the beginning of the crisis, the European Commission has contributed more than **€251 million**, providing services such as health, food and basic needs assistance, winterization, shelter, education, water and sanitation, psychological support and protection programmes to refugees in camps and urban settings. The provision of basic services in villages and towns across the country also includes vulnerable Jordanian families. Specific programmes support childrens' and womens' needs, since approximately **53% of the refugees are children and 23.5% women**.

With 83% of the refugees in Jordan living in urban settings, the European Commission supports the most vulnerable refugees through programmes, including cash assistance

which is considered the most cost-efficient and dignified way of helping people in need.

EU aid in action: Since 2012, UNICEF has received a total of **€24 million** from the European Commission for child protection, water and sanitation, and the current child cash programme. Since February 2015, UNICEF is assisting about 56.000 girls and boys from 15.750 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee families in host communities with 20 Jordanian Dinar per child per month.

As **priority for 2016**, funding will largely support the emergency needs of the more than 45 000 Syrian refugees stranded along the North-Eastern border with Syria.

DELIVERY OF AID

The **EU's Humanitarian Aid** is channelled through the United Nations, International Organisations, and international NGO partners, and is responding to life-threatening needs in the areas of food aid, health, water, sanitation and hygiene as well as shelter and protection.

As from 2016, a large part of **non-humanitarian aid** for Syria's neighbouring countries to cope with the refugee crisis is channeled through **the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis**. 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 recent pledges from 20 Member States - amounting to over €60 million - and contributions from various EU instruments, the Fund is now reaching **a total volume of more than €700 million**. Additional funds will be committed in 2016 and beyond. The **Third Board meeting of the Trust Fund** will take place on 22 March and is expected to confirm projects worth almost **€400 million** for the countries affected by the Syrian crisis, including significant support to Jordan.

PREVENTING A LOST GENERATION OF SYRIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The European Union has dedicated substantial resources addressing the educational needs of children affected by the crisis in Jordan, such as support to basic education, youth programmes, vocational education and higher education in Jordan. The funding has enabled Jordan to admit over **140.000 Syrian children** into their public schools.

In addition, the EU has been supporting the Jordanian Ministry of Education through two subsequent Budget Support Programmes amounting to:

- **€59.6 million** for the years 2011-2014 (of which €29.6 million were dedicated to Syrian refugees)
- **€53 million** for the school years 2015-2017

An additional **€8 million** have been devoted to Higher Education activities and scholarships in the region with the British Council and the German Jordanian Universities.

The EU is also active in the field of youth, providing important assistance through the EuroMed Youth programme, which aims at the promotion of youth projects through study visits and voluntary work.

TRADE INITIATIVE – RELAXATION OF RULES OF ORIGIN

At the 4 February 2016 London conference, as part of its response to the Syria crisis, the EU announced a trade initiative in accordance with earlier Jordanian requests. The initiative proposes a temporary relaxation of Rules of Origin for products manufactured in selected development zones in Jordan with additional employment of Syrian refugee labour.

The relaxation would benefit industrial goods manufactured in preselected development zones identified by Jordan and provided that Syrian refugees are employed in their production. The proposed alternative rules of origin for Jordanian exporters would be those used by the EU for imports from Least-Developed Countries under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) / Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme. The initiative is designed to last ten years, with a mid-term revision allowing the parties to make adjustments in light of experience.

The proposal is now under discussion with the Jordanian government. Assuming agreement with Jordan, the deal will move to the Council for approval. Subsequently, the EU–Jordan Association Committee can move to implement the deal in late June or July of this year.

