

FACTS & FIGURES

Population: 18.2 million (ESCWA 2013)

15.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance:

- 12.2 million in Syria (7.6 million of which are internally displaced)
- 3.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries and North Africa

UN Appeals for 2015:

- \$2.9 billion
Syria Strategic Response Plan 2015 (SRP)
0% funded*
(*as of 12th January, OCHA)
- \$5.5 billion
Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2015-2016 (3RP)
0% funded*
(*as of 12th January, UNHCR)

Switzerland's allocation since March 2011:

- CHF 128 million

Projects realised:

- 56% in Syria
- 44% in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq & Turkey

Switzerland's action lines:

- Humanitarian aid via humanitarian partner organisations
- Direct actions
- Deployment of technical experts to UN agencies
- Supporting international coordination and humanitarian diplomacy

SDC presence in the region:

- Cooperation office in Amman, Jordan
 - Programme office in Beirut, Lebanon
 - Field office in Qoubayat, Lebanon
 - Liaison Office in Turkey
- Switzerland's projects in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey are coordinated by the cooperation office in Amman/Jordan.



Abou Hassad's house in Akram Village hosting 70 refugees in Lebanon ©SDC

Syria Crisis at a Glance

UN and partners launched major aid plans for Syria and the Region

For 2015 the United Nations and partners launched a major humanitarian and development appeal requesting over \$8.4 billion in funds to help nearly 18 million people in Syria and across the region. The **Syria Strategic Response Plan** addresses acute humanitarian needs inside Syria, aiming to provide protection and life-saving assistance, and to promote resilience (including livelihoods support). For the first time, the plan brings together humanitarian organizations working from inside Syria and neighbouring countries (Whole of Syria approach). The **Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan** represents a strategic shift in the approach to delivering aid for the region as it brings together emergency humanitarian operations and host community support with longer-term programmes aimed at boosting resilience.

The fourth winter since the beginning of the crisis

Four years of persistent conflict and deteriorating economic conditions have challenged people's resilience. In winter essential goods and services, such as shelter and fuel, typically become more expensive. People are more exposed to health threats, and income-generating opportunities become scarce. SDC is providing together with partners (such as UNHCR) immediate aid, such as blankets, mattresses and fuel for heaters. In December 2014, Switzerland provided additional CHF 20 million for supporting mainly winterization needs of the people affected by the Syria and Iraq crises. In view of the approaching winter storm Huda, SDC together with Save the Children Jordan and in association with the Ministry of Social Development, distributed 1'000 winter blankets to Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in the beginning of January.

Three out of four Syrians live in poverty

According to the Syria Center for Policy and Research, 3 out of 4 Syrians live in poverty, and 2 out of 4 in extreme poverty. The number of people being unable to secure basic food and non-food items sufficient for the survival of their households and making them dependent on humanitarian aid inside Syria has now risen to 12.2 million, constituting two thirds of the population. In order to provide relief, Switzerland's humanitarian partners, namely the UN, the ICRC, non-governmental organisations and local aid agencies are doing their utmost to reach as many people as possible in both government- and opposition-controlled areas; they are able to deliver aid in every province in Syria.

Context

Since the outbreak of the crisis in March 2011, the humanitarian situation in the region has drastically deteriorated. The population gravely suffers from the impact of continuous fighting, human rights violations, the violation of international humanitarian law as well as difficult or no access to water, food and basic medical care.

An estimated 4.8 million people are currently located in areas that are difficult to access, which means they can only be reached on a sporadic basis. Of this total number, almost 212,000 people live in besieged areas, which can only be reached sporadically or cannot be reached at all. The intense hostilities and changing territorial control between multitudes of armed groups has resulted in a confusing and partly unpredictable security situation. A lack of respect for international humanitarian law, including targeted attacks on aid workers, poses a considerable security risk. Bureaucratic hurdles creating restrictive working conditions for aid organisations make the delivery of humanitarian aid even more difficult.

Swiss Humanitarian Aid

Switzerland's allocation to mitigate the humanitarian impact of the Syria crisis since its outbreak stands at CHF 127 million, addressing humanitarian needs and strengthening resilience inside Syria as well as in the neighbouring countries. Switzerland's aid has four action lines:

1. assistance for the affected civilian population in Syria and neighbouring countries via humanitarian partner organisations (UN agencies, ICRC, NGOs);
2. direct actions (implemented by SDC itself);
3. lending experts in the fields of shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and cash assistance from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit to partner organisations (so far, a total of 15 Swiss experts have been seconded to UN agencies in and around Syria); and
4. engagement in humanitarian diplomacy for improving access to people in need of assistance, as well as support of international efforts of aid coordination.

Switzerland's direct actions:

School Rehabilitation in Jordan and North Lebanon

- Total cost: CHF 4.33 million
- Number of beneficiaries: So far, 28'450 students in 42 (13 in Lebanon; 29 in Jordan). Currently, 28'500 students in 43 schools (15 in Lebanon; 28 in Jordan).

Around half of all Syrian refugees in the region are children, which is putting a lot of pressure on schools and the education system to also provide schooling to Syrian refugee children. In Lebanon, there are more than 400,000 Syrian refugee children. Despite absorbing 90,000 refugee students into public schools in 2014, 280,000 school-age refugees are still out of school. In Jordan, Syrian refugee children have been accepted in public schools. Nevertheless, more than half of the 220,000 school-age Syrian children are not enrolled in education. Those enrolled have to take their lessons in overcrowded classrooms with double shifts. In view of this, the

crisis in Syria is threatening to create a 'lost generation', as children lose their homes, their family members and their future.

Switzerland aims at facilitating access to education for both Syrian refugees and local children, by refurbishing schools in Jordan (since June 2012) and North Lebanon (since May 2013). The works include improvement of infrastructure, repair of electrical installations as well as sanitation units, furnishing of classrooms and refurbishing of the painting. The projects also aim at strengthening the students' affiliations towards their schools and at improving their basic skills to conduct voluntary initiatives. It further helps integrate Syrian refugees into the schools. The Principality of Liechtenstein contributes CHF 750,000 to the direct action in Jordan; the Federal Office for Migration supported the first phase of the Lebanon project with CHF 500,000.

Funding contributions

Funding contributions are intended to support the civilian population dependent on aid in Syria and its neighbouring countries (local host communities, internally displaced persons and refugees). The following partners have been supported:

Organisations	Amount (Mio. CHF)	Organisations	Amount (Mio. CHF)
UNHCR	21.3	UNDP	5.0
ICRC, IFRC, Swiss Red Cross	18.4	FAO	2.8
Intl. NGOs and local aid organisations	17.5	OCHA	2.0
WFP	14.7	World Bank	2.0
UNRWA	13.6	UN-HABITAT	1.0
UNICEF	5.9		

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