



## PARTNERSHIP FOR THE #CHILDRENOFSYRIA – EU TRUST FUND AND UNICEF

“Europe and the countries in Syria’s neighbourhood are facing the biggest refugee crisis since the end of World War II. It affects all of us. Our response must be a joint one if we want to succeed. With fifteen Member States already contributing, the EU Trust Fund embodies this common effort and already bears fruit. Within a very short timeframe, we have managed to launch the single biggest aid package ever in response to this crisis.”

Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and  
Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn

### WHAT IS THE EU REGIONAL TRUST FUND IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS?

The EU and its Member States have come together to create the [EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis](#), also called the ‘Madad Fund’ (‘Madad’ is Arabic and means ‘helping together’) to increase immediate and much needed aid to the millions of Syrian refugees in the Middle East and their host communities. Launched in December 2014, the EU Trust Fund is a regionally driven and managed fund that is able to intervene both quickly and flexibly in response to the shifting needs of the refugee crisis, as well as to better coordinate between donors, host governments and implementing partners. So far, 17 EU Member States, Turkey, and the EU have committed €650 million to the Fund. The financial target of the Fund is to reach €1 billion in 2016.

Since the onset of the crisis, the European Union has provided €2.5 billion that enable the Syrian people – in Syria and in neighbouring countries – to access basic services. Mainly, this has been done through EU Delegations’ development cooperation programmes with humanitarian aid channelled through the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), the Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), and the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) to Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. As the scale of the crisis increases, its long-term and resilience needs have grown. The European Commission and 17 EU Member States mobilised a substantial increase of funding in support of Syrian refugees and their host countries through the €650 million EU Trust Fund.

A priority of the EU Trust Fund is to ensure equitable access for refugees to basic services, particularly in the education sector. A whole generation of Syrian children and youth risk losing out on developing to their full potential, including not having the life skills or the knowledge for employment that education can provide. In line with the No Lost Generation initiative, and in partnership with UNICEF, the EU Trust Fund focuses on the over 6 million conflict-affected Syrian and Iraqi children in need, whether internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries.

## RESULTS SO FAR

Overall, funding of **€390 million has already been committed** for programmes under the EU Trust Fund.

In December 2015, the EU Trust Fund adopted programmes worth €350 million, the single biggest EU aid package in this crisis thus far. These programmes will help up to 1.5 million Syrian refugees and overstretched host communities in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq provide access to education (€140 million), healthcare (€55 million), and improved water and waste-water infrastructure (€25 million), as well as support resilience efforts, economic opportunities and social inclusion (€130 million).

**Overall, the Trust Fund has mobilised education funding of €165 million**, of which the majority, more than €100 million, is delivered in partnership with UNICEF in support of the No Lost Generation initiative in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, which will enable Syrian children and children in host communities to access educational and child protection services.

This provides a massive scale-up of support to enrol an additional 172,000 refugee children in school while also providing accelerated learning programmes, non-formal and early childhood education, and child protection activities. Together, these efforts will target up to 587,000 school-age children and adolescents who are currently out of school. The EU Trust Fund has the potential to close the remaining gap to reach the target of allowing 1 million Syrian refugee children to access education in the 2015/16 school year.

The ambitious target of the London conference to bring all Syrian children back into education with the school year 2016/17 will be the key priority for the Partnership between the EU Trust Fund and UNICEF this year. This partnership will spearhead international efforts to make that goal a reality for the #childrenofsyria.