



#NOLOST  
GENERATION

unicef

EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis

الصندوق الاستئماني "مدد"

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## PARTNERSHIP FOR THE #CHILDRENOFSYRIA EU REGIONAL 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, affecting all of us. Our response must be a joint one if we want to succeed. The EU Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis is one of Europe's key instruments for delivering on our €3 billion pledge at the London conference on supporting Syria and the region. With more than €730 million committed to the Trust Fund, including from now 22 EU Member States, it has already launched projects for more than €628 million within the first 15 months of operations, focusing on two key priorities agreed in London: to bring all children into school and to invest in livelihoods and social cohesion for both refugees and host communities so as to provide urgently needed perspectives, stabilisation and economic opportunities for the region."

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 (hereafter the 'EU Trust Fund') to bring immediate and much needed aid to the hundreds of thousands of refugees from the Syrian crisis. Launched in December 2014, the EU Trust Fund is a regionally driven and managed fund that is able to respond both quickly and flexibly to the shifting needs of refugees, and better coordinate between donors and implementing partners. So far, the European Commission and 22 EU Member States have mobilised €730 for the Trust Fund. The financial goal of the Fund is to reach €1 billion by the end of 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, people's long-term and resilience needs have grown. The European Commission and now 22 EU Member States have mobilised €730 in funding to support Syrian refugees and their host countries through the EU Trust Fund.

A key area where investment is needed is in the equitable access 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. Immediate action should be taken to enhance the support to over 13 million conflict-affected Syrian and Iraqi children in need, whether internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries.



## RESULTS TO DATE

Overall, funding of €628 million has already been committed for programmes under the EU Trust Fund focusing on two key priorities agreed at the London conference in February 2015: to bring all children into school and invest in livelihoods and social cohesion for both refugees and host communities.

The initial funds (€38 million from the EU budget and €3 million from Italy) were committed in early 2015. These funds were allocated for programmes in three areas: education, food security and livelihoods. Of these funds, almost half (€17.5 million) are financing initiatives in Turkey.

With this funding, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education in Turkey are enabling more than 200,000 Syrian refugee children to benefit from teaching in Arabic, psychosocial support, educational materials and refurbished school facilities.

In December 2015, the EU Trust Fund adopted a package of programmes worth €350 million. 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 reach 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 allow 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.

