

»» Project Information

Implemented by:



FC involvement in the Syrian crisis

No lost generation...?!

War has been raging in Syria for the past five years and Syrians are fleeing their country. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) speaks of more than 4.6 million officially registered refugees, while the estimated number of unreported cases is significantly higher. The people are fleeing to the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt, while the number of refugees within their own country is estimated to be 7.6 million. Particularly in regions near the borders, refugees and residents are forced to share the scarce resources (water, food and energy), as well as the public infrastructure (health care facilities, schools). An end to the war – and thus a return of the people – is nowhere in sight.

German assistance, with which KfW is involved, is carried out in a different way: on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office and the United Arab Emirates, KfW established a reconstruction fund called the Syria Recovery Trust Fund (SRTF). The objective is to improve access to energy, water and health services for the people in areas governed by moderate Syrian opposition forces (National Syrian Coalition) within Syria. In neighbouring countries, FC supports Jordanian programs, especially in the water sector, which benefit not only the population of Jordan, but also the refugees. Added to that are collaborative activities with UN organisations.

Jordan

Jordan's population of 6.5 million has taken in over 630,000 Syrian refugees, most of which are living in cities and communities. Almost half of them are children. In many of these communities, the number of inhabitants has doubled over the course of a single year. Infrastructure for the supply of water, energy, medical care and education was insufficient to begin

Current situation

The numbers speak for themselves: 1.2 million Syrian refugees currently live in Lebanon, while almost two million have fled to Turkey, almost 630,000 to Jordan and about 240,000 to Iraq – and those are only the officially registered figures. Only 12% of the refugees live in formal refugee camps.

Many of them live in undignified conditions, injured and traumatized, housed in makeshift encampments. Numerous schools have returned to a two-shift system, the overcrowded classes essentially destroying the successes achieved by the education system in the past several years. The situation has intensified not only with the involvement of the terrorist organisation IS (starting early 2013), which has since taken control of parts of northern and eastern Syria as well as parts of Iraq, but also with the intervention of the international anti-IS alliance.

	Projects for Syrian refugees (current projects and commitments since 2012)
Jordan	Water bilateral: EUR 53.5 million Energy bilateral: EUR 15 million UNICEF: EUR 90 million
Lebanon	UNICEF: around EUR 90 million WEP: around EUR 46 million UNWRA: around EUR 18 million UNDP: EUR 10 million
Egypt	WEP: EUR 5.5 million
Iraq	UNICEF: EUR 58.2 million WEP: EUR 6.2 million UNDP: EUR 30 million



The not-lost generation goes to school. Source: UNICEF

with, but it has now been pushed to the limits of what it can withstand. This is particularly the case for the water supply. The German development cooperation supports these communities in the construction of necessary infrastructure, while also providing support for refugee camps. Since 2012, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through KfW, has made a total of almost EUR 410 million available as additional funds for special projects designed to combat the refugee crisis. These funds are applied mainly to measures dealing with water supplies for the supported communities. The newly available water, made possible through rehabilitated and new wells, covers the needs of 785,000 people.

Support for UNICEF resulted in the provision of school-books for 25,000 children and the creation of placements for 6,000 additional schoolchildren. Other assistance includes a vaccination campaign against measles and polio, as well as psychosocial care for about 18,000 traumatised children and their parents. A sustainable water and sewage system will be built for the 85,000 inhabitants of the Za'atari refugee camp.

Using funds from the BMZ special initiative "Fighting the Causes of Flight – Reintegrating Refugees", a photovoltaic system providing approximately 10 MW of power is planned for Za'atari, which should be able to cover the electricity needs of 85,000 people. Currently, people in the camp only have access to electricity for a few hours each day. A drinking water pipeline has also been rehabilitated, bringing water to 800,000 people in the north. The tendering process is currently underway for the photovoltaic system.

Assistance from UN organisations

In cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UN-WRA), refugees in Lebanon and Jordan are provided with clean water, food, medications, medical care and childcare. UNHCR and WFP handle the basics of shelter and food security, while UNICEF coordinates all measures in the WASH sector (water, sewage, solid waste and hygiene) as well as everything dealing with education, children and family assistance. They have many years of experience in crisis situations and conflict areas and they use proven methods of procurement and distribution – most often in cooperation with local and international governmental and non-governmental organisations. As a result, assistance is provided relatively quickly for those in need.

Lebanon

The population is only 4.4 million, but the country has taken in 1.2 million refugees, putting it under enormous strain. Rental prices have jumped by 20-100%, with the same increase in prices for food. Many refugees are accepting extremely low wages, creating serious competition with the Lebanese for low-skilled labour. For measures involving road construction, rehabilitation of sports fields and recreational facilities, irrigation channels and similar projects, much attention is thus being paid to creating job opportunities. The program, which is lead by the UNDP, serves 180 communities, each of which is supported with up to EUR 400,000. On top of that, there are food stamps and care packages for those in special need. About half of all Syrian refugees are children. So far, the BMZ – via KfW in cooperation with UNICEF – has spent EUR 74 million to give 60,000 children regular schooling. Remedial education has been provided to 11,000 children so that they can integrate into regular classes after resettling.

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