



European
Commission

RESPONDING TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS EU SUPPORT TO RESILIENCE IN LEBANON



The EU recognises the importance of and supports the efforts of Lebanon as the country with the highest per-capita concentration of refugees worldwide.

To date, the European Commission has allocated **almost €1.3 billion in assistance** to Lebanon since 2011, both for bilateral assistance (€ 268 million) and specifically in response to the Syrian crisis (close to € 1 billion).

€268 million in bilateral assistance has been allocated under the European Neighbourhood Policy focusing on:

- local social and economic development
- investment in decent infrastructure and a stronger private sector
- increasing the efficiency of institutions and the rule of law
- support to civil society



These activities reflect the priorities for cooperation agreed jointly by Lebanon and the European Union and are guided by the EU/Lebanon **Partnership Priorities of November 2016**. In parallel, and specifically in response to the Syrian crisis, the EU and Lebanon adopted a **Compact** to address the needs of host communities and refugees.

The EU has allocated close to **€ 1 billion to Lebanon to support the country in its efforts to host more than 1 million registered Syrian refugees**. The funding is helping host communities in Lebanon and Syrian refugees by:

PROTECTING the most vulnerable, by meeting their most pressing humanitarian needs such as health, food, shelter, water and sanitation,

ASSISTING REFUGEES who fled Syria, **ensuring decent living conditions** and **access to basic services** (education, etc), including also through advocacy on their legal registration in the country,

Promoting **ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION** for both Lebanese citizens and Syrian refugees, notably through facilitating access to basic, vocational and higher education, supporting private sector development, and facilitating trade with the EU. The aim is to foster the inclusive socio-economic development of Lebanon and increase the refugees' contribution to its economic growth,

REINFORCING THE CAPACITIES of those Lebanese institutions responsible for responding to the crisis, at national and local levels, including by investing in the upgrading of infrastructure to cope with the additional pressure resulting from the refugee presence.

PREVENTING A LOST GENERATION

The Lebanese public education system is under strain. More than 400.000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are between 3 and 14 years old. Nearly half do not have access to any form of education. This puts them at risk of early marriage and exploitation.

The EU has committed around €246 million for education and child protection in Lebanon.

Thanks to EU support:



more than 90,000 boys and girls received subsidies for registration fees in public formal education in the school year 2016/2017. 34.177 Syrian children were able to enrol in primary schools and 15.810 in Accelerated Learning Programmes



transportation services were improved, so that over **25.000 Syrian refugee students** could continue their education and attend school since 2016



over 1.300 young people, adolescents and adults enrolled in higher education since 2016 and this amount is expected to double by the end of 2019. Almost 850 Syrian refugee students received a higher education scholarship



Photo: © UNICEF Lebanon

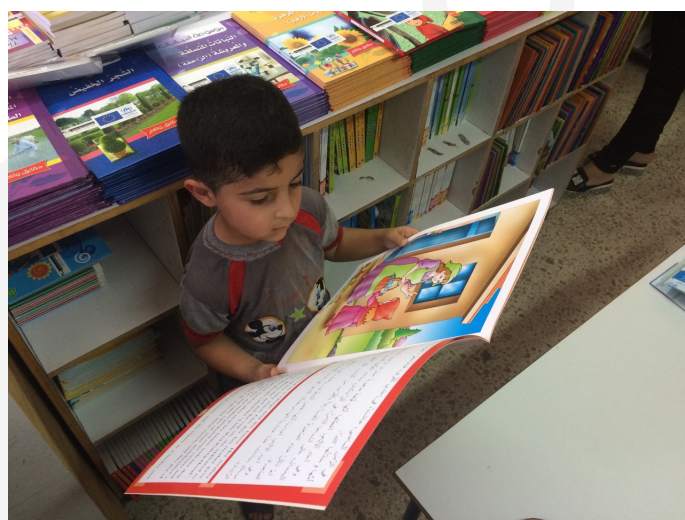


Photo: © 'Terre des Hommes, Mouhamad Awada'

EMPOWERING PEOPLE, BOOSTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The European Union is fully committed to assisting the economic and social development of Lebanon as a strategic partner of long-standing in the region. This is why the EU has supported the Cedre Conference on reforms and stands ready to mobilise EU funds for Lebanon's capital investment programme once suitable projects are presented via the EU External Investment Plan. On this occasion it announced a package of up to €150 million to support the revitalisation of the Lebanese economy, which could generate up to €1.5 billion loans for Lebanon until 2020.

EU support in response to the Syrian crisis is benefiting host communities in Lebanon by boosting their economic development: over 300 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Lebanon have received training since 2016. Some 120.000 Lebanese and Syrians will have improved their skills, found a job or run more profitable and efficient businesses by the end of 2018.