



Asmaa Syrian refugee in Jordan

"I chose law because I don't like injustice. I've seen many unpleasant things and couldn't do anything about it. Maybe law would help me help people."

Asmaa, 27, crossed the border into Jordan when she was pregnant with her second child. Her husband had just been killed in the war. When her father heard in the news that his missing son was also killed, he had a heart attack and died.

Despite everything she went through Asmaa keeps smiling. She wants to look towards the future. She followed lessons by WhatsApp and passed her high school exam. She received a scholarship to study law.



Hudaifa 13-year-old Palestinian born in Syria

"I want to become a doctor when I grow up. I want to help people; it's a good thing and shows humanity."

Hudaifa came with his family to Lebanon aged nine, when the bombing reached Al-Yarmouk camp. Hudaifa is a chess champion. When he and his family arrived in Lebanon, their father taught them chess so they wouldn't play in the streets.

"Chess teaches us how to go by in life."



Amsha Lebanese living in East Beirut

"We pay for water to be brought in a water tank and then we fill up our own tank. In winter, when there's snow and ice, we really struggle."

With EU funding, local residents like Amsha and Syrian refugees enjoy access to reliable water services in Lebanon. People can now save 70% of the costs and have clean drinking water.

"Now we can relax, at least. We can even grow some plants on our doorstep."



THE EU AND THE CRISIS IN SYRIA

Eight years after the outbreak of the conflict, the situation in Syria is still critical, with millions of Syrians displaced and in need of protection and humanitarian assistance. The potential for violence remains high, and there is little progress in sight towards a sustainable resolution of the conflict. Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, as well as other host countries in the region such as Egypt and Iraq, have shown extraordinary solidarity towards the refugees, and they continue to need assistance to meet the growing needs of both the refugees and their own communities.

Only a credible political solution in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254¹ and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué² **will ensure a peaceful future and stability for Syria and the region.** For this reason, the EU continues to work in support of the UN-led Geneva

intra-Syrian dialogue, which is the only one that can ensure international support and legitimacy to the peace process. Furthermore, the EU will maintain its engagement with all regional and international partners and with Syrian civil society to support the UN-led process. It also continues to support the Syrian population, as well as refugees and the communities that host them in neighbouring countries, with humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance.

The European Union believes that sustainable peace goes hand in hand with the restoration of Syrian social cohesion and dignity, based on justice and equal citizenship. This can only be achieved when all Syrians will feel safe, free and able to live in dignity in their own country.

As long as the fear and suffering continue, we have the duty to protect and support the Syrian people. The EU has been helping Syrians since the beginning of the conflict and will continue to do so until peace, security and the rule of law are guaranteed."

Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the Commission

¹ - The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 was unanimously adopted on 18 December 2015. It calls for a ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access and political settlement in Syria.
² - The Geneva Communiqué was issued on 30 June 2012 after a meeting of the UN-backed Action Group for Syria. It laid out a six-point plan intended to stop the violence and move the two sides towards a political settlement. It was endorsed in the Security Council Resolution 2118/2013.



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HOW IS THE EU HELPING?



Supporting the UN-led intra-Syrian negotiations towards a genuine political transition



Saving lives by addressing the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Syrians across the country and in the region



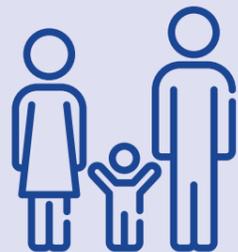
Strengthening Syrian civil society organisations to promote **democracy, human rights and freedom of expression**



Promoting **accountability** with a view to facilitating a national reconciliation process and transitional justice, justice for detainees, missing persons and their families



Supporting the **resilience of the Syrian population** and society, as well as of refugees and the **communities that host them in neighbouring countries**



Since the outbreak of the conflict in 2011, the EU has collectively (EU budget and Member States) mobilised around **€17 billion** to help those affected by the Syrian war. The EU is the **largest provider of international aid in response to the Syria crisis**, delivering humanitarian, stabilisation and resilience assistance inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

The EU believes that the right to **safe, voluntary and dignified** return is an individual right of refugees and internally displaced persons, and supports their dream of living safely at home. But **for Syrian refugees to be able to return to their country, the necessary conditions need to be in place**. The EU works closely with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on the conditions that are needed for these returns to be safe, however **these protection requirements are not currently met**.

Until there is clear evidence that the necessary protection conditions are met, it will be **essential to maintain asylum space and to continue strengthening the resilience of refugees and the communities that host them**. This is why the **EU will continue to show solidarity with and support to refugee hosting countries**. The EU's assistance in response to the Syrian crisis does not only benefit Syrian refugees, but also Lebanese, Jordanians and Turkish people, helping to create job opportunities, infrastructure including schools, as well as better health and water services.

Once a political solution is reached, the EU will help Syrians "win the peace". However, there can be no shortcuts in the way towards a truly sustainable peace. The EU will be ready to assist in the reconstruction of Syria **only once a comprehensive, genuine and inclusive political transition is firmly under way**, negotiated by the Syrian parties on the basis of UNSC Resolution 2254 and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué. A guarantee of the rule of law is needed to ensure that reconstruction efforts will benefit all Syrians. The EU's reconstruction support cannot be invested in a context that would exacerbate pre-war inequalities and grievances. It will only do so if it can lead to genuine reconciliation and peace building.

The focus of reconstruction is not simply on rebuilding infrastructure but the aim is to create conditions that will mitigate or prevent the recurrence of violence and to respond to the grievances that sparked the conflict in the first place.

BRUSSELS CONFERENCES ON "SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SYRIA AND THE REGION"

The overarching objective of the three Syria Conferences has always been to support the Syrian people and further mobilise the international community behind the work to achieve a lasting political solution to the Syria crisis, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

The Brussels conferences addressed the most critical humanitarian and resilience issues affecting Syrians and communities hosting Syrian refugees, both inside the country and in the region. They reaffirmed the international community's political and financial support for Syria's neighbours, notably Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey, as well as Egypt and Iraq.

The third Brussels conference took place in March 2019 and was the main pledging event for Syria and the region this year, mobilising pledges totaling €8.3 billion for 2019-2020/beyond. The Conference provided even greater space than previous editions for **Syrian, regional and international NGOs and civil society organisations, as well as women's networks**.