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ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERING
OF THE SYRIAN PEOPLE

Overall Objective

The Syria Recovery Trust Fund (SRTF) is a transparent and accountable multi-donor financing mechanism that channels grant funding from the international community into projects that meet the priority needs of the Syrian people. Donors pool their resources to finance essential services in key sectors, such as water, health, electricity, education, food security and solid waste removal. The SRTF is helping to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people inside Syria during a protracted conflict which has led to over 7.6 million internally displaced people, 12 million people in need and over 4 million refugees.

Establishment & Membership

The Fund was initiated by the Group of Friends of the Syrian People who were determined to provide urgently needed support for Syrians suffering from the impact of the war and on-going crisis. The Framework Agreement to establish the SRTF was signed on September 2, 2013. The parties to the agreement include the three original donors: the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America, together with the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (SOC) as the legitimate representative of the Syrian People, and the German Development Bank (KfW) as Trustee. Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Japan, the United Kingdom, Kuwait, France, Italy, and the Netherlands subsequently joined the Fund. Turkey and Jordan joined the SRTF as host countries.

Structure

A Steering Board of representatives from donors and the SOC governs the SRTF. The Board sets the overall strategy and financing priorities for the fund. A Management Committee approves project proposals, monitors the operations of the Management Unit and assures compliance with the strategy and directives approved by the Steering Board.

The Management Unit is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the Fund; it is Syrian-led and employs many Syrian staff. Transparency and accountability of SRTF financing activities is guaranteed through regular independent monitoring and audits. Field Coordination Officers provide a unique window into project implementation in the midst of the on-going crisis through their on-the-ground oversight of projects.

Financing

The SRTF received approximately Euro 120 million in initial resources from the 12 donor countries. Almost all of the initial funds have been disbursed or committed for approved projects and planned activities.

The SRTF is currently in need of additional donor contributions in order to continue funding critical projects to support Syrians that are severely impacted by the conflict with, in most cases, no support other than the SRTF funded activities. Continuation of SRTF operations wholly depends on replenishment of the fund's resources.

Operational Strategy & Sectors

The SRTF fills a critical role in supporting Syrians who remain in liberated areas under the control of moderate opposition forces, despite ongoing attacks by the regime and extremist groups. The SRTF works with Syrian local councils, municipalities, public service providers and other eligible entities to initiate early recovery of damaged essential services. It also helps to rebuild local technical and administrative capacities that are necessary to implement such projects, ensure their sustainability and help prepare for a future Syria.

The SRTF Operational Strategy prioritizes restoration of essential services in water, health, electricity, education, food security and solid waste management. Projects in other sectors including agriculture, rule of law, transportation, telecommunication, public enterprises, and housing can also be considered.



The strategy promotes non-discrimination among all members of Syrian society and highlights the importance of gender equality while paying due attention to the differentiated needs of men, women, youth, and children.

Projects & Impact

The SRTF is making a significant impact on Syrians whose lives have been torn apart by the on-going conflict. The rehabilitation of hospitals and the restoration of medical services in liberated areas have saved the lives of many people. Similarly, repair of damaged electrical grids and generators have contributed to the recovery of local economic activities. Wheat deliveries feeding those in need minimize malnutrition and stunting of children, often seen in similar conflict situations. Ambulances provided by the SRTF have handled more than 50% of the emergency calls in one health directorate.



Other approved projects will address critical water and sanitation issues, health needs, food security, solid waste and rubble removal, electricity and agriculture. The SRTF is also implementing a rapid response project to support stabilization efforts in recently liberated areas.

As of 31 Dec 2015, the SRTF had approved 26 projects totaling approximately Euro 55 million which impact over 2 million direct beneficiaries, many of whom are highly vulnerable. An additional 64 million Euro has been designated for 30 priority projects currently under development. With 16 projects remaining the pipeline.

The Syria Recovery Trust Fund is making a difference in the lives of Syrians facing endless challenges and deteriorating conditions. With its technical capacity, administrative and operational systems in place, and connections inside Syria, the SRTF is poised to do much more with additional donor support.