

British Minister of State for International Development, the Rt Hon Desmond Swayne MP:

Four years into the conflict, the scale of displacement continues unabated. There are now over 3 million refugees in the region – 1 million more than there were 12 months ago. Over half are children. The rise of ISIL underlines the importance of coming together today to offer those who are displaced and vulnerable an alternative vision of hope for the future.

Host countries – Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey - have shown enormous generosity in welcoming those in need, despite the huge pressure this has placed upon them. They are this crises' biggest donors. We commend their efforts: it is vital that those fleeing violence are able to continue to seek refuge. However, it is also important that this continues to be a truly international effort.

The UK is playing its part. Last month, the British Development Secretary announced €126 million (£100 million) in new funding, bringing total UK commitments to €882 million (£700 million). We have agreed multiyear commitments with all our partners, giving them the certainty they need to plan ahead. We have scaled up our development support to neighbouring countries, for example with €21 million (£17 million) to fund municipalities providing essential services in Jordan and Lebanon. We will ensure all new funding for Jordan and Lebanon is allocated against the priorities set out in National Response Plans. And we will continue to strongly support the No Lost Generation Initiative which – under the leadership of the Jordanian and Lebanese Governments - is pioneering an integrated approach to the needs of children affected by the crisis.

But we need everyone to play their part. For donors, this means predictable longer term support to refugees and host communities. For host countries, this means providing strong national leadership through national response plans and policy decisions which support more sustainable solutions, including access to livelihoods and services for refugees. And for international organisations, it means scaling up development and resilience approaches and delivering the shift to national response plans which embody the principles set out in the Comprehensive Regional Strategic Framework.

Nor must we forget the over 10 million people in need of assistance inside Syria. We must maximise all routes to reach the most vulnerable – and look to the UN to make full use of UNSCR 2165 to expand cross-border operations in close coordination with INGOs.

A negotiated political transition in Syria is the only way to end the conflict and alleviate humanitarian suffering in the region. We must not lose sight of this fundamental goal. We made a commitment to stand by the people of Syria and the region now and in the years to come – today we need to honour that commitment.