



Tal
Berlin Conference on the Syrian
Refugee Situation 28 oktober 2014
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Tal vid internationell konferens om flyktingkrisen till följd av kriget i Syrien

Det talade ordet gäller.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first of all thank the Government of Germany for hosting this timely event. It is high time that we increase our efforts to support the host nations.

The number of casualties and wounded in Syria is staggering and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons keeps growing. It has been said time and again but it needs to be repeated: the only way to end the suffering of innocent civilians is a sustainable political solution. Every effort must be made to once and for all find a peaceful solution to the crisis. It will never be possible to respond to the overwhelming needs solely through humanitarian aid.

Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt have all received and supported people fleeing the fighting in Syria. The generosity of the countries in the region should be recognised and applauded. The need to maintain that generosity is crucial to alleviate the suffering of millions of people.

The international community must come together to share this burden. We welcome the important role of the UN system in coordinating and implementing the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis. Having said that, we need to get better at coordination between humanitarian actors and development actors. Finding ways to bridge humanitarian response and development efforts is fundamental. There is no room for in-fighting over mandates.

Sweden has contributed more than 175 million USD in humanitarian aid since 2011. In addition to this, we have provided significant un-earmarked core budget support to the main UN humanitarian actors. To mention one example this year alone, more than 24 million USD of our core budget support to the World Food Programme has been allocated to help alleviate the Syria crisis.

Sweden and Germany are by far the two largest recipients of Syrian asylum seekers within the EU. More than 55 000 asylum seekers from Syria have sought protection in my country since the conflict started. The determination to give Syrians protection should not be the task of a few. We strongly encourage all other European and Western countries to share this responsibility.

Mere gratitude does not ease the burden on the host communities and the humanitarian response alone is not enough. Therefore, Sweden has decided this week to allocate an additional 13 million USD to support host communities in the region.

I would again like to thank the Government of Germany and High Commissioner Guterres for calling this meeting. We must all come together to try to support those suffering the consequences of the fighting in Syria. This support must go both to those fleeing their homes and to those generously

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receiving people in need of shelter.

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