

## Support for young experts and leaders

To enable refugees to continue their academic studies and to prepare them to return home at a later date, the German Academic Exchange Service has, with the help of the Federal Foreign Office, significantly increased the number of scholarships for Syrian refugees in the region. The Leadership for Syria Programme is allowing more than **200 Syrian refugees** to study full-time in Germany. In addition, the Federal Foreign Office is financing third-country scholarships at its binational universities in the region as well as through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), including more than 300 in 2015 for Syrian refugees in the countries of first admission **Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan** and **Egypt**. Third-country scholarships for Syrian refugees will be expanded further in 2016. In the medium term, it is a question of preparing people for the time after the conflict and training the leaders of tomorrow to ensure the new start is successful. Together with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany is supporting “scholars at risk”, that is foreign academics threatened by persecution and war in their home countries.

## Iraq

Germany is helping the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enable people in the areas formerly controlled by ISIS to return to normality as quickly as possible, and have access to secure temporary accommodation as well as to water, electricity, health care and schools. Since the crisis erupted in 2014, the Federal Foreign Office has made around **107 million euros** available to aid organisations. Cash transfer programmes and the procurement of aid supplies from local markets foster the independence of those affected and strengthen local structures. The **3.2 million displaced persons in Iraq** now have to rebuild trust in their state and communities.

This has worked in **Tikrit**, where the UNDP project has helped stabilise life in the city. Some 80% of the population has returned to date, taxi companies are up and running, many supermarkets have reopened and life is returning to the city.

Within the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Germany is helping rebuild and equip the police and communities in former ISIS-controlled areas.

## Focus on Syria Conference in London

**Germany**, in cooperation with the **United Kingdom, Norway, Kuwait** and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, is organising the conference “Supporting Syria and the Region” on 4 February 2016 in London. The conference will play a significant role in creating future prospects for refugees in **Syria’s neighbouring countries**, i.e. for those who are very close to their homeland. The financial pledges of assistance for **Syria** and the host countries in the region will be a crucial factor in funding the UN assistance plans. The conference will follow in the footsteps of the pledging conferences for Kuwait I to III from 2013 to 2015, as well as the political tradition of the Berlin Refugee Conference held in October 2014.

Besides the acquisition of financial pledges from the international community, the conference will focus on three main issues:

- **“Inside Syria”**: improvement of humanitarian access in Syria, compliance with international humanitarian law and exchange on ways to stabilise Syria.
- **Employment**: contribution of host states in the region (particularly **Jordan, Lebanon** and **Turkey**) to overcoming the huge challenges. The main goal is to facilitate access to the labour market for refugees and thus to give them economic and social prospects in their host countries.
- **Education**: The aim is to support the host countries in the region in their efforts ideally to grant all Syrian children access to education by the end of the 2016/2017 school year.

As the third-largest bilateral donor in the context of the Syria crisis and co-organiser of the conference, Germany has assumed a leading role in the above-mentioned key areas.

## Germany’s activities in other crisis regions and countries of origin

As well as Syria and the wider area, a number of other countries throughout the world are affected by crises, prompting people to leave their countries and migrate. In each case the Federal Government is employing the entire palette of political, economic, social and cultural measures to tackle the causes of flight at local level.

### Afghanistan

**Afghanistan** currently has the second-highest number of refugees. Among other things, Germany is committed to tackling the causes of flight on the ground by means of training courses (for example, in cooperation with the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law) as well as through specific further training courses and stabilisation projects in particularly hard-hit areas. In **Kunduz**, for example, Germany is rebuilding much of what was destroyed when the Taliban took over the city in September 2015. Together with Caritas organisation, we support more than 1.000 families without male main carers by providing drinking water, food and sanitary facilities. In addition, Germany is funding projects to promote the integration of internally displaced persons and Afghan refugees in **Pakistan** and **Iran**.

### Communication

The Federal Foreign Office and its missions abroad are providing information and increasing awareness – about German assistance in crisis areas, about the dangers of flight due to misinformation and about the reality of the situation regarding residence in Germany, also from the legal point of view. In November 2015 a multilevel public campaign was launched in **Afghanistan** to inform people wishing to migrate of the risks of flight and migration as well as to refute prevailing rumours. We use e.g. billboards on intercity buses saying “Don’t trust human traffickers”.

## Syria and the surrounding region in the spotlight of German foreign policy

The current refugee situation – tasks, data, facts



Conference „change through exchange“ with students of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) © Thomas Koehler/Photothek



Federal Foreign Minister Steinmeier talking to refugees in Baharka refugee camp in northern Iraq © Gottschalk/Photothek



There are currently more than **60 million refugees** in the world – more than at any time since the end of the Second World War. Half of these refugees are children and minors, who need special protection. The primary causes of flight and displacement are violent conflict, eroding state structures, a lack of economic prospects in countries of origin and transit as well as the high population growth in many developing countries paired with dwindling resources.

→ German foreign policy is working actively to de-escalate conflict, both bilaterally and within the European Union and the United Nations. One focal point is combating the causes of flight, above all through political initiatives to promote peace, particularly in **Syria** and **Iraq**. German support focuses primarily on the regions of origin.

→ Germany is offering comprehensive humanitarian assistance and is supporting countries of origin, first admission and transit by providing emergency accommodation, food aid and medical care.

→ People need to have a future in their home countries. That is why Germany is above all supporting those who stay to rebuild their country, with a particular focus on the field of education.

→ In places where people have found an initial safe haven, such as **Turkey**, **Lebanon** and **Jordan**, German-supported projects are helping to give refugees from **Syria** access to the local education system and labour market.

At European level, Germany is working to find solutions on the basis of common values, solidarity and responsibility. Germany is also supporting the international organisations involved with the refugee crisis, such as the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and humanitarian non-governmental organisations. Thanks to the large-scale programmes run by these organisations, internally displaced persons and other victims of the war in **Syria** as well as Syrian refugees in **neighbouring countries** have been able to receive assistance locally.

## Our support in Syria and the surrounding region

**Germany has provided support** totalling around **1.4 billion euros** in the Syria conflict since 2012. This makes Germany the third-largest bilateral donor when it comes to tackling the Syria conflict. With the funds available the Federal Government is providing practical help for people from the conflict region – humanitarian assistance to meet immediate needs as well as political and economic support and stabilisation for the region and reconstruction work once the conflict has been resolved.

In many cases, the **electricity and water supply** in the conflict region has been interrupted or destroyed. This makes daily life an exhausting fight for survival, in which women and children as well as elderly people suffer particularly.

**Germany**, hand in hand with partner organisations on the ground, is helping to restore vital infrastructure such as water and electricity supply and thus enable people to go about their day-to-day lives. In the particularly hard-hit communities in **northern Syria**, the Federal Foreign Office is promoting projects

to improve electricity and water supplies. This has helped improve the living conditions of almost **300,000 people in the region** who previously had either no or only poor access to water and electricity as a result of conflict-related destruction.

Basic support also involves **medical care** – that includes hospitals, but also help to enable people to reach doctors and hospitals in rural regions. The Federal Government has therefore assisted with the delivery of ambulances and medical goods to Aleppo, in northern Syria. This is helping to save lives on a daily basis.

Needy families in **Lebanon** are receiving food packages, hygiene kits and winter relief, among other things. We are also providing medical services. For example, we are making ambulance services and first aid available to **65,000 people**.

We are creating education opportunities for Syrian refugees in **Jordan** by providing third-country scholarships. Here, too, we are providing winter relief for those in need.

The Federal Foreign Office is supporting the provision of food for more than **four million people in Syria** via the World Food Programme. In Turkey, for example, we are helping to provide more than **100,000 Syrian refugees** with hygiene kits. Furthermore, Germany has had an office on the Turkish-Syrian border since 2013. From here, we help **supply food** to opposition-controlled areas in **Syria**, for example 350 lorry loads of seeds, greenhouses and generators.

With the German Red Cross as project partner, German humanitarian assistance is reaching particularly needy people as part of an aid project for the entire region. In Turkey alone, more than **110,000 people** have benefited in the last eighteen months. The assistance is focused on the Syrian civilian population affected by the violent conflict, that is, above all internally displaced persons and Syrians who have fled to neighbouring countries. Support is also provided for population groups in neighbouring countries who are adversely affected by the refugee flows.



Staff from a local NGO put together food parcels financed by the Federal Foreign Office. As a result of German support, each month 1000 families in the Yarmouk refugee camp and the neighbouring district of Yelda are currently being supplied with hygiene kits and food parcels.



Since the outbreak of the Syria conflict, the Federal Foreign Office has been promoting assistance measures in cooperation with the German Red Cross and the Syrian Red Crescent. The distribution of food, medical care and the provision of basic hygiene necessities is improving the situation of the civilian population. © SARC Aleppo Branch



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### Publishing data

Published by  
Federal Foreign Office  
Werderscher Markt 1  
10117 Berlin  
Telephone: +49 30 1817-0  
Internet: [www.diplo.de](http://www.diplo.de)

Corporate Design  
Atelier Hauer + Dörfler, Berlin  
[www.hauer-doerfler.de](http://www.hauer-doerfler.de)

Layout  
kionodesign  
[www.kiono.de](http://www.kiono.de)

Title picture © Syrian Red Crescent/ICRC/Pawel Krzysiek

February 2016