

The  
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presents the

## **2016 Ise-Shima G7 Interim Compliance Report**

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*“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”*

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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## 6. Syria: Refugees

“We are committed to supporting displaced persons and their host communities and to working towards a long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria and to eradicating conditions conducive to violent extremism.”

*G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average	+0.63		

### Background

Since the beginning of the civil war in Syria in 2011, an estimated 11 million Syrian refugees have fled their homes.<sup>529</sup> While close to 6.5 million people have been internally displaced, another 4.8 million have fled to the neighbouring states of Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.<sup>530</sup> The crisis in Syria has also contributed to the increased levels of migration to Europe, which has had a significant impact on many states within the G7. Over one million refugees and migrants travelled to Europe by sea in 2015, and of those who took the Mediterranean Route, half were from Syria.<sup>531</sup> Germany and Sweden, which are the European Union’s top refugee-receiving countries, have received approximately 300,000 and 100,000 asylum applications respectively.<sup>532</sup> While the numbers of those fleeing to Europe decreased in 2016, the refugee crisis remains an important issue.

The Syrian revolution began on 11 March 2011, when the occupants of a southern city began to protest the government’s decision to torture 13-year-old boys who had written “The Government must go!” on their school, and advocated for a transition to democracy.<sup>533</sup> This sparked calls for President Bashar al-Assad’s resignation.<sup>534</sup> The non-governmental organization I Am Syria notes that “The government responded with heavy-handed force, and demonstrations quickly spread across much of the country.”<sup>535</sup> In April 2011, as an attempt to stabilize the protest, President Bashar al-

<sup>529</sup> Conflict Background, I Am Syria 9 October 2015. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.iamysyria.org/conflict-background.html>.

<sup>530</sup> Charlie Dunmore, UN Refugee Chief Warns Syria Displacement Set to Rise, United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) (Amman) 24 October 2016. Date of Access: 11 November 2016. <http://www.unhcr.org/580e2cc84.html>.

<sup>531</sup> Jonathan Clayton/Hereward Holland, Over One Million Sea Arrivals Reach Europe in 2015, United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) (Lesvos) 30 December 2015. Date of Access: 11 November 2016. <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2015/12/5683d0b56/million-sea-arrivals-reach-europe-2015.html>.

<sup>532</sup> Conflict Background, I Am Syria 9 October 2015. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.iamysyria.org/conflict-background.html>.

<sup>533</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

<sup>534</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

<sup>535</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

Assad sent tanks into cities, and security forces opened fire.<sup>536</sup> Rebel brigades were formed, and the conflict between rebel and government forces continued.<sup>537</sup> By June 2013, the UN reported that 90,000 people had been killed.<sup>538</sup>

The Syrian conflict has since evolved into a series of at least “four overlapping conflicts.”<sup>539</sup> When the war between the government forces and rebels catalyzed the conflict and instability, a vacuum of power was created. ISIS took full advantage of this and moved into Syria, setting up a central base of operations in Raqqa, and creating a so-called Islamic caliphate.<sup>540</sup> Thus, the conflict between ISIS and the international coalition against them added a new dimension to the Syrian crisis. Complicating this is the struggle between the Turks and the Kurds, who have been a significant ally of the West in the fight against ISIS, but have created an autonomous region for themselves in Syria.<sup>541</sup> This is due to Turkey’s national security fears regarding the Kurdistan Worker’s Party (PKK), and perception that the Syrian Kurds are an extension of this group.<sup>542</sup> Finally, the Syrian conflict is also a proxy war between the US and Russia, as well as between the Gulf States and Iran.<sup>543</sup>

The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic has reported an increase in violence in the wake of the latest failed ceasefire, noting that “nearly 600,000 people are under siege” while humanitarian aid is not being allowed into many areas.<sup>544</sup> They note that “civilians and hors de combat fighters continue to be disappeared, taken hostage, tortured and subject to sexual violence ... Unlawful killings, including deaths in detention and summary executions, remain a hallmark of this blood-soaked conflict.”<sup>545</sup> The conflict has also revealed Syria’s violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits the use and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Although the US military intervened in August 2013 and forced Assad to agree to remove and destroy all of Syria’s chemical weapons, there is evidence that the Syrians have used chlorine gas since.<sup>546</sup>

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<sup>536</sup> Conflict Background, I Am Syria 9 October 2015. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.iamyria.org/conflict-background.html>.

<sup>537</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

<sup>538</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

<sup>539</sup> Straightforward Answers to Basic Questions About Syria’s War, The New York Times (New York) 18 September 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/19/world/middleeast/syria-civil-war-bashar-al-assad-refugees-islamic-state.html>.

<sup>540</sup> Straightforward Answers to Basic Questions About Syria’s War, The New York Times (New York) 18 September 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/19/world/middleeast/syria-civil-war-bashar-al-assad-refugees-islamic-state.html>.

<sup>541</sup> Tim Arango, Kurds Fear the U.S. Will Again Betray Them, In Syria, The New York Times (New York) 1 September 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/02/world/middleeast/kurds-syria-turkey.html>.

<sup>542</sup> Tim Arango, Kurds Fear the U.S. Will Again Betray Them, In Syria, The New York Times (New York) 1 September 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/02/world/middleeast/kurds-syria-turkey.html>.

<sup>543</sup> Straightforward Answers to Basic Questions About Syria’s War, The New York Times (New York) 18 September 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/19/world/middleeast/syria-civil-war-bashar-al-assad-refugees-islamic-state.html>.

<sup>544</sup> “Syria’s Chemical Weapons Have Been Destroyed. So, Why Do Chlorine Gas Attacks Persist? The New York Times (New York) 11 August 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/12/world/middleeast/syria-chlorine-gas-attack.html>.

<sup>545</sup> Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, United Nations General Assembly (New York) 11 August 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/178/60/PDF/G1617860.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>546</sup> White House Condemns Syria’s Chemical Weapons Use, CNN (Washington) 25 August 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/08/25/politics/un-report-chemical-weapons-syria/>.

Despite attempts to find a political solution to the conflict, agreements have not been effective thus far. In early 2014, Geneva II broke down following two rounds of discussion after then-UN Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi condemned the Syrian government's resistance to holding discussions to hear the opposition's demands.<sup>547</sup> Staffan de Mistura, his successor, shifted the focus onto a series of local ceasefires.<sup>548</sup> The three-year siege of the Homs suburb of al-War was ended in 2015.<sup>549</sup> The United States and Russia led efforts to get representatives of the government and the opposition to talk in Geneva in January 2016, with the aim of discussing a Security Council-endorsed road map for peace, which includes a ceasefire and transnational period ending with elections.<sup>550</sup> The latest "cessation of hostilities" deal began on 12 September 2016.<sup>551</sup> It has since collapsed.<sup>552</sup>

### Commitment Features

This commitment can be broken down into three components. G7 members have committed to: 1) "supporting displaced persons and their host communities"; 2) "work ... towards a long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria"; and 3) "eradicating conditions conducive to violent extremism."<sup>553</sup>

The first element of this commitment involves the continuation of earlier G7 commitments to support internally displaced persons, refugees and their host communities. While the G7 does not specifically state which countries it defines as host countries, the 2016 Supporting Syria and the Region Conference, which was hosted by G7 members, concluded that "Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt have shown extraordinary generosity in hosting refugees but their communities are under considerable strain as basic services are overstretched."<sup>554</sup> This focus on host communities also indicates that the displaced persons referred to in the commitment are not internally-displaced persons, but refugees. Examples of ways that G7 members could comply with the commitment include financial aid and collaboration with UN aid agencies. The G7 Group of industrial powers and Gulf states have allocated 1.6 billion Euros for UN aid agencies in helping Syrian refugees.<sup>555</sup> However, goods and services such as education, health and infrastructure advancement could also provide evidence of support. In order to support the humanitarian crisis in Syria, G7 members also provide funding and other types of support to organizations such as International Syria Support Group, the UN and the World Food Programme to help facilitate the rapid distribution of safe resources to Syrians.<sup>556</sup>

<sup>547</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

<sup>548</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

<sup>549</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

<sup>550</sup> Syria: The story of the conflict, BBC News (London) 11 March 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

<sup>551</sup> Syria War: Cessation of Hostilities Comes into Effect, BBC News (London) 12 September 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37335829>.

<sup>552</sup> Syria: October 2016 Monthly Forecast, Security Council Report (October 2016). Date of Access: 19 November 2016. [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2016-10/syria\\_36.php?print=true](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2016-10/syria_36.php?print=true).

<sup>553</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7/G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#syria>.

<sup>554</sup> Co-Hosts Declaration from the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference, London 2016, Supporting Syria and the Region (London) 4 February 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <https://www.supportingsyria2016.com/news/co-hosts-declaration-of-the-supporting-syria-and-the-region-conference-london-2016/>.

<sup>555</sup> UN aid agencies helping Syrian refugees to get 1.6 billion euros from G7 and Gulf states, Euronews 30 September 2015. Date of Access: 6 November 2016. <http://www.euronews.com/2015/09/30/un-aid-agencies-helping-syrian-refugees-to-get-16-billion-euros-from-g7-and>.

<sup>556</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7/G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#syria>.

While supporting host countries is a short term goal, this commitment also includes the goal of “working towards a long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria.”<sup>557</sup> Since rehabilitation cannot occur without stability, this element requires G7 states to support efforts to achieve and maintain a cessation of hostilities, especially through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2254, 2258, and 2268.<sup>558</sup> UNSCR 2254 was adopted on 18 December 2015, and provides a “road map for a peace process in Syria.”<sup>559</sup> while UNSCR 2258 aims to improve the ability of humanitarian aid to reach citizens in the country.<sup>560</sup> Finally, UNSCR 2268 supports the cessation of hostilities agreement which aims to “create the space for a long-overdue political transition.”<sup>561</sup> G7 members have also agreed to support the Geneva Communiqué, and commit to an inclusive and peaceful political transition in Syria.<sup>562</sup>

Finally, the G7 has committed to “eradicating conditions conducive to violent extremism.”<sup>563</sup> While the declaration itself does not list specific means by which this can be done, the G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism emphasizes the importance of “empowering alternative voices that are capable of challenging the drivers of violent extremism ... to help make societies resilient to violent extremism.”<sup>564</sup> It lists several steps that G7 members should take, including, but not limited to efforts that will: (1) support civil society organizations like the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund and Hedayah; (2) endorse the UN Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and “call for its rapid implementation, including by sharing expertise and providing relevant assistance to other UN member states”; and (3) “Promote pluralism, tolerance, and gender equality through cross-cultural and interfaith dialogues and understanding including through education.”<sup>565</sup>

Thus, to achieve full compliance, G7 members must take steps to fulfill all three of these commitments. If the G7 member fulfills only two of these commitments, they will receive a score of 0. If the G7 member fails to take action to achieve any of these commitment, they will be considered non-compliant.

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<sup>557</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7/G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#syria>.

<sup>558</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7/G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#syria>.

<sup>559</sup> Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2254 (2015), Endorsing Road Map for Peace Process in Syria, Setting Timetable for Talks, United Nations (New York) 18 November 2015. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12171.doc.htm>.

<sup>560</sup> Unanimous Adopting Resolution 2258 (2015), Security Council Renews Authorization for Passage of Humanitarian Aid into Syria, United Nations (New York) 22 December 2015. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12179.doc.htm>.

<sup>561</sup> Security Council Endorses Syria Cessation of Hostilities Accord, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2268 (2016), United Nations (New York) 26 February 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12261.doc.htm>.

<sup>562</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7/G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#syria>.

<sup>563</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7/G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 1 October 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#syria>.

<sup>564</sup> G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/action-plan-terrorism.html>.

<sup>565</sup> G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 19 November 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/action-plan-terrorism.html>.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	The G7 member fails to take steps to support displaced persons and their host communities, fails to take action to help stabilize Syria, AND does not work to eliminate the conditions that permit the spread of violent extremism.
0	The G7 member takes steps achieve at least TWO of its three commitments.
+1	The G7 member takes steps to support displaced persons and their host communities, works toward a long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria; contributes to the elimination of the conditions that permit the spread of violent extremism.

*Lead Analyst: Nabiha Chowdhury*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support displaced persons and their host communities, to work towards long-term, sustainable, post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, and to eradicate conditions conducive to violent extremism.

Canada has made several commitments to increase its support of displaced Syrian refugees and their host communities in heavily burdened regions including Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey. On 19 September 2016, Canada co-chaired a roundtable on “International Action and Cooperation on Refugees and Migrants: The Way Ahead,” where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged the international community to help Syrian refugees in the Middle East, noting that “the international community must come together to address their immediate needs and to help rebuild their lives.”<sup>566</sup> On 19 September 2016, the Canadian government committed to increasing humanitarian support by 10 per cent this fiscal year.<sup>567</sup> As part of a new CAD1.6 billion commitment which was announced in the previous compliance year, the government of Canada has announced CAD442 million in direct humanitarian aid to be distributed over three years to help alleviate the suffering of Syrian refugees in the region.<sup>568</sup> This will be directed to United Nations agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross to help families meet basic needs, improve access to health and social services, support the needs of women and girls, and support the livelihoods of affected refugees.<sup>569</sup> The Canadian government also announced CAD37.8 million in long-term institutional funding for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assist displaced and vulnerable people.

The Canadian government further announced CAD15 million to support the Education and Learning in Lebanon initiative, CAD10 million to support the Scaling Up Access to Formal Education for Syrian Girls and Boys project in Jordan, CAD20 million for the Education Cannot Wait Fund to support the educational needs of children in conflict zones, and CAD739,000 to support accessibility to and quality of learning for refugee children in 25 schools in Lebanon and

<sup>566</sup> Prime Minister announces significant support following UN meeting on refugees and migrants, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 19 September 2016. Date of Access: 2 December 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/09/19/prime-minister-announces-significant-support-following-meeting-refugees-and-migrants>.

<sup>567</sup> Prime Minister announces significant support following UN meeting on refugees and migrants, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 19 September 2016. Date of Access: 2 December 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/09/19/prime-minister-announces-significant-support-following-meeting-refugees-and-migrants>.

<sup>568</sup> Canada provides significant support following UN meeting on refugees and migrants, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 19 September 2016. Date of Access: 2 December 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/09/19/canada-provides-significant-support-following-meeting-refugees-and-migrants>.

<sup>569</sup> Canada provides significant support following UN meeting on refugees and migrants, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 19 September 2016. Date of Access: 2 December 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/09/19/canada-provides-significant-support-following-meeting-refugees-and-migrants>.

Jordan.<sup>570</sup> Furthermore, on 5 December 2016, the Canadian government announced CAD8 million in funding for Lebanon including CAD449,782 for the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training to engage Lebanese and Syrian women in social stability to help promote peace and cooperation between Syrian refugees and Lebanese society.<sup>571</sup>

Canada has pledged CAD20 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees to support education, health, and social services for Palestinian refugees from the region, including those who fled Syrian refugee camps.<sup>572</sup> The government of Canada has earmarked a further CAD5 million to support the agency's work in helping Syrian refugees exclusively.<sup>573</sup> The Canadian government has also committed CAD150 million to Iraq to support humanitarian relief work within Iraq, helping conflict-affected Iraqis and Syrian refugees who have fled the Syrian conflict.<sup>574</sup> On 7 November 2016, the Canadian government committed CAD125 million to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to help provide food to people affected by humanitarian crises, including to Syrian refugees in the Middle East.<sup>575</sup>

As part of its commitment to working towards long-term, sustainable, post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, the Canadian government has worked alongside the United Nations and the international community at large to push for a negotiated peace agreement. On 13 October 2016, the Canadian government submitted a request to the president of the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of itself and 69 other countries. This request aimed to have the UN General Assembly meet to “explore concerted action to apply pressure on the parties of the violence [in Syria].”<sup>576</sup> Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also issued a statement to the United Nations General Assembly plenary meeting on Syria, in which he stated, “Canada is taking a stand at the United Nations General Assembly today to protect vulnerable Syrians and help find a solution to the conflict engulfing that country.”<sup>577</sup>

On 30 October 2016, as part of the EU-Canada Summit Joint Declaration, the Canadian government reiterated its support for a credible and viable political transition as outlined in UN

<sup>570</sup> Prime Minister announces significant support following UN meeting on refugees and migrants, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 19 September 2016. Date of Access: 2 December 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/09/19/prime-minister-announces-significant-support-following-meeting-refugees-and-migrants>.

<sup>571</sup> Backgrounder – Announcement of security and stability projects in Lebanon, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2016. Date of Access: 6 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=1165789&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=lebanon&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>

<sup>572</sup> Liberals restore \$25 million in funding to controversial Palestinian aid agency, CBC News (Toronto) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 3 December 2016 <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/unrwa-funding-palestinian-restored-1.3852779>.

<sup>573</sup> Liberals restore \$25 million in funding to controversial Palestinian aid agency, CBC News (Toronto) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 3 December 2016 <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/unrwa-funding-palestinian-restored-1.3852779>.

<sup>574</sup> Canada pledges humanitarian and stabilization support for Iraq, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 19 July 2016. Date of Access: 2 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?jsessionid=df1f289ca48d49c4d49a1c55cf5f71367f853f24bf78f8ecd41c37dc92a685.e38RbhaLb3qNe3eKa3v0?mthd=index&crtr.page=1&nid=1101179>.

<sup>575</sup> Canada announces funding to Canadian Foodgrains Bank to support the most vulnerable, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 7 November 2016. Date of Access: 6 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?jsessionid=09073ac27d7c71096f211b7562b356c5cb160b3325a4f0734644119b2c33fc95.e38RbhaLb3qNe3eMbN50?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=1149109&crtr.tp1D=1>.

<sup>576</sup> Canada leads new push on Syria crisis at UN as 'frustration' over Security Council deadlock grows, CBC News (Ottawa), 13 October 2016. Date of Access: 5 December 2016. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-un-syria-security-council-1.3803893>.

<sup>577</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada on UN General Assembly plenary meeting on Syria, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa), 20 October 2016. Date of Access: 5 December 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/10/20/statement-prime-minister-canada-general-assembly-plenary-meeting-syria>.



Security Council Resolution 2254, and its support for the UN in leading and coordinating stabilization and peace-building efforts.<sup>578</sup>

The Canadian government, from 11 November 2016 to 13 November 2016, also brought together special envoys from 15 countries, representatives from the Syrian political opposition, as well as experts and diplomats from the United Nations, Syrian civil society, and other academics to discuss the Syrian situation.<sup>579</sup> Minister of Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion reiterated Canada's commitment to "full and unhindered humanitarian access, full respect of international law and a complete, enforceable and verifiable cessation of hostilities."<sup>580</sup>

Further, the Canadian government published a joint statement from the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States that declared support for UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura's attempts to resume the negotiations for a peaceful political settlement to end the war in Syria.<sup>581</sup>

The Canadian government has also supported several initiatives to eradicate conditions conducive to violent extremism in the Syrian region. As part of Operation IMPACT, the government will increase the number of military personnel from 650 to approximately 830, to be deployed at various Global Coalition headquarters and as part of Joint Task Force-Iraq to help plan operations, collect intelligence, and contribute to the protection and conduct of coalition operations.<sup>582</sup> Further, the Canadian government has committed to tripling the size of its "train, advise, and assist mission," which includes dispatching medical personnel, providing small arms, ammunition, and optics to Iraqi security forces, and deploying three CH-146 Griffon helicopters for tactical support and medical evacuations.<sup>583</sup>

The Canadian government has also committed CAD145 million over the next three years to stabilization and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security programming as part of its plan to limit the spread of extremism. In Iraq, the Canadian government has pledged CAD200 million to the government of Iraq to ensure a return to stable, inclusive democracy.<sup>584</sup>

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<sup>578</sup> EU-Canada Summit Joint Declaration, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa), 30 October 2016. Date of Access: 5 December 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/10/30/eu-canada-summit-joint-declaration>.

<sup>579</sup> Canada hosts key allies and partners to discuss steps toward peace in Syria, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa), 14 November 2016. Date of Access: 6 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=2&nid=1154149&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=syria&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>

<sup>580</sup> Canada hosts key allies and partners to discuss steps toward peace in Syria, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa), 14 November 2016. Date of Access: 6 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=2&nid=1154149&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=syria&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>

<sup>581</sup> Joint statement from the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States on the situation in Aleppo (Syria), Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) December 8 2016. Date of Access: December 8 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/12/08/joint-statement-leaders-canada-france-germany-italy-united-kingdom-and-united-states>.

<sup>582</sup> Promoting security and stability, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 August 2016. Date of Access: 5 December 2016. [http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/security-securite/middle\\_east-moyen\\_orient/stabilization\\_development-stabilisation\\_developpement.aspx?lang=eng](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/security-securite/middle_east-moyen_orient/stabilization_development-stabilisation_developpement.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>583</sup> Promoting security and stability, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 August 2016. Date of Access: 5 December 2016. [http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/security-securite/middle\\_east-moyen\\_orient/stabilization\\_development-stabilisation\\_developpement.aspx?lang=eng](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/security-securite/middle_east-moyen_orient/stabilization_development-stabilisation_developpement.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>584</sup> Canada pledges humanitarian and stabilization support for Iraq, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 19 July 2016. Date of Access: 6 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1101179>.

Further, the Canadian government has announced CAD8 million in funding for Lebanon in defense, security, and stabilization assistance to help limit the spread of violent extremism in the region.<sup>585</sup> Minister of Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion stated that this funding will help Lebanon and its host communities build resilience and cope with the ongoing crisis in the region.<sup>586</sup>

Thus, Canada has been awarded a score of +1 for fulfilling its commitments pledged at the Ise-Shima Summit, and for demonstrating dedication to the fulfillment of each of the three defined commitments through providing financial assistance, putting forth military contributions to the Global Coalition fighting Da'esh, and installing political pressure to find a solution to the Syrian crisis.

*Analyst: Arthur Ferguson*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to supporting displaced persons and their host communities, to working towards long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, and to eradicating conditions conducive to violent extremism.

On 26 September 2016, President François Hollande announced plans to shut down Calais, the makeshift refugee camp located in northern France, and disperse the migrants across the country.<sup>587</sup> The decision to demolish Calais was welcomed by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Committee on Rights of the Child, which cited human rights violations at the camp.<sup>588</sup> Starting 24 October 2016, migrants were moved out of Calais, and ushered onto buses destined for shelters across France.<sup>589</sup> Makeshift shelters were also opened across the country to support the displaced persons. On 6 September 2016, Mayor of Paris Hidalgo announced separate shelters for men and vulnerable women and children set to open mid-October.<sup>590</sup> Additionally, French non-governmental organization Emmaus Solidarité has offered to help set up ten day shelters in northern France, closer to the now-demolished Calais.<sup>591</sup> The shelters will provide medical care and guidance on how to attain asylum before refugees and migrants are processed by the welcome centres.<sup>592</sup>

France is also providing healthcare and educational services for displaced persons both within and outside of France. France is supporting higher education for refugees by receiving Syrian refugees

<sup>585</sup> Minister Dion announces significant support for peace, security and stability in Lebanon, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2016. Date of Access: 6 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=1165789&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=syria&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>

<sup>586</sup> Minister Dion announces significant support for peace, security and stability in Lebanon, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2016. Date of Access: 6 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=1165789&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=syria&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>

<sup>587</sup> UN welcomes demolition of Calais 'Jungle', Al Jazeera 14 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/welcomes-demolition-calais-jungle-161014153810381.html>.

<sup>588</sup> Calais Camp: French and UK Governments Fell Well Short of their Child Rights Obligations, Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva) 2 November 2016. Date of Access: 12 December 2016. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20815&LangID=E>.

<sup>589</sup> 'We Are Ready to Leave': France Clears Out Calais 'Jungle', New York Times 24 October 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://nytimes.com/2016/10/25/world/europe/we-are-ready-to-leave-france-clears-out-the-jungle.html?em\\_pos=large&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20161025&nl=morning-briefing&nid=63254195&r=0&referer=](http://nytimes.com/2016/10/25/world/europe/we-are-ready-to-leave-france-clears-out-the-jungle.html?em_pos=large&emc=edit_nn_20161025&nl=morning-briefing&nid=63254195&r=0&referer=)

<sup>590</sup> Paris to open first migrant camp by October, Reuters 6 September 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016. <http://in.reuters.com/article/europe-migrants-paris-idINKCN11C13P>.

<sup>591</sup> Paris opens new-style reception center to help solve migrants crisis, Reuters 1 December 2016. Date of Access: December 10 2016. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-paris-centre-idUSKBN13Q4VD>.

<sup>592</sup> First official refugee and migrant shelter opens in French capital, France24 10 November 2016. Date of Access 9 December 2016. <http://www.france24.com/en/20161110-france-first-migrant-refugee-transit-shelter-opens-paris>.

from host country Lebanon, and has allocated EUR1 million to the program.<sup>593</sup> On 21 November 2016, Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Research Najat Vallaid-Belkacem announced a plan to provide educational and language support for migrants and refugees.<sup>594</sup> The minister urged the state, non-governmental organizations, community actors and citizens to band together to expand national participation in this program.<sup>595</sup>

France is also working towards long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria by providing a draft for a new United Nation Security Council Resolution (UNSCR). On 8 October 2016, France, along with Spain, drafted the text for a UNSCR which called for cessation of aerial bombardment and military flights over Aleppo.<sup>596</sup> The text also called for parties involved in the conflict, in particular the Syrian government, to implement the Council's previous resolutions.<sup>597</sup> Furthermore, on 15 November 2016, the United Nations Third Committee Meeting (Social, Humanitarian, and Culture) approved a draft resolution pertaining to human right situation in Syria.<sup>598</sup> France co-sponsored the resolution set forth, which expresses concern over the human rights violations occurring in Aleppo.<sup>599</sup> The resolution called for the Syrian regime to cease the use of chemical weapons and requested procedures confirming the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons program.<sup>600</sup>

France also made efforts to comply with its commitment to eradicating conditions conducive to violent extremism. The aforementioned draft resolution that France presented to the UNSC in October also called for a halt of all material and financial support to groups associated with al Qaida, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and Jabhat al-Nusrah.<sup>601</sup> On 8 October 2016, French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Marc Ayrault, speaking before the UNSC, argued that rejection of the draft would result in a higher number of displaced persons and refugees.<sup>602</sup>

On 14 October 2016, France released a joint statement with thirteen other states asking that the United Nations take action to implement the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent

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<sup>593</sup>Scholarship Program for Syrian Students, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 10 October 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/syria/events/article/higher-education-syrian-refugees-scholarship-program-for-syrian-students-10-10>.

<sup>594</sup>Najat Vallaud-Belkacem Lance Une Mobilisation pour l'apprentissage du Français aux Publics Migrants et Réfugiés, Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (Paris) 21 November 2016. Date of Access: 12 December 2016. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid109449/najat-vallaud-belkacem-lance-une-mobilisation-pour-l-apprentissage-du-francais-aux-publics-migrants-et-refugies.html>.

<sup>595</sup>Najat Vallaud-Belkacem Lance Une Mobilisation pour l'apprentissage du Français aux Publics Migrants et Réfugiés, Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (Paris) 21 November 2016. Date of Access: 12 December 2016. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid109449/najat-vallaud-belkacem-lance-une-mobilisation-pour-l-apprentissage-du-francais-aux-publics-migrants-et-refugies.html>.

<sup>596</sup>Syria conflict: Spain and France Draft Aleppo Truce Resolution, BBC News (London). 4 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37552749>.

<sup>597</sup>Security Council Fails to Adopt Two Draft Resolutions on Syria, United Nations (New York) 8 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12545.doc.htm>.

<sup>598</sup>Third Committee Approves 5 Draft Resolutions on Situations in Syria, Iran, Crimea, Introduces 5 Others Concerning Self-Determination, Enhanced Cooperation, United Nations General Assembly (New York) 15 November 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gashc4188.doc.htm>.

<sup>599</sup>Adoption of a Resolution by the General Assembly on Human Rights (Paris) 15 November 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/syria/events/article/syria-united-nations-adoption-of-a-resolution-by-the-general-assembly-on-human>.

<sup>600</sup>Third Committee Approves 5 Draft Resolutions on Situations in Syria, Iran, Crimea, Introduces 5 Others Concerning Self-Determination, Enhanced Cooperation, United Nations General Assembly (New York) 15 November 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gashc4188.doc.htm>.

<sup>601</sup>Security Council Fails to Adopt Two Draft Resolutions on Syria, United Nations (New York) 8 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12545.doc.htm>.

<sup>602</sup>Security Council Fails to Adopt Two Draft Resolutions on Syria, United Nations (New York) 8 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12545.doc.htm>.

Extremism (PVE).<sup>603</sup> The proposal also committed France and other states to the PVE, with states noting that they “intend to: lead by example ... act upon the General Assembly’s call to develop and implement national and regional PVE Action Plans, and assist other Member States in doing so” among other things.<sup>604</sup>

On 12 December 2016, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations François Delattre reiterated his deep concerns over violent terrorism before the UNSC.<sup>605</sup> Delattre called for cooperation between international judicial and law enforcement, as this would strengthen the kind of international cooperation which is conducive to preventing the formation of foreign terrorist fighter networks.<sup>606</sup>

Thus, France has been awarded a score of +1 for its commitment to supporting displaced persons and their host communities, to working towards long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, and to eradicating condition conducive to violent extremism.

*Analyst: Sommyyah Awan*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to supporting displaced persons and their host communities, to working towards long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, and to eradicating conditions conducive to violent extremism.

On 4 February 2016, prior to the G7 Summit, Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged EUR2.3 billion for the period of 2016 to 2018.<sup>607</sup> After the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration was released on 27 May 2016, Germany disbursed much of this funding.

In July 2016, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier stated that humanitarian aid had successfully reached two besieged cities in Syria: Arbin and Zamalka.<sup>608</sup>

On 11 July 2016, Foreign Minister Steinmeier made a statement about Germany’s support for the World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator, a project geared towards innovating food aid. In this statement, Steinmeier underlined that Germany has donated EUR570 million in humanitarian assistance to the World Food Programme (WFP) for Syria and the surrounding region for 2016.<sup>609</sup>

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<sup>603</sup> Joint Statement on the Issue of Preventing Violent Extremism, Permanent Mission of France (Paris) 14 October 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.franceonu.org/Joint-statement-on-the-issue-of-preventing-violent-extremism>.

<sup>604</sup> Joint Statement on the Issue of Preventing Violent Extremism, Permanent Mission of France (Paris) 14 October 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.franceonu.org/Joint-statement-on-the-issue-of-preventing-violent-extremism>.

<sup>605</sup> In Fight against Terrorism, Security Council Adopts Resolution 2322 (2016), Aiming to Strengthen International Judicial Cooperation, United Nation (New York) 12 December 2016. Date of Access: 13 December 2016. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12620.doc.htm>.

<sup>606</sup> In Fight against Terrorism, Security Council Adopts Resolution 2322 (2016), Aiming to Strengthen International Judicial Cooperation, United Nation (New York) 12 December 2016. Date of Access: 13 December 2016. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12620.doc.htm>.

<sup>607</sup> Eleven billion dollars for Syrian refugees, the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 4 February 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2016/2016-02-04-syrien-konferenz-london\\_en.html](https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2016/2016-02-04-syrien-konferenz-london_en.html).

<sup>608</sup> Foreign Minister Steinmeier on the arrival of humanitarian aid convoys in the besieged Syrian cities of Arbin and Zamalka, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 5 July 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2016/160705\\_BM\\_HuHi\\_SYR.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2016/160705_BM_HuHi_SYR.html).

<sup>609</sup> Statement by Foreign Minister Steinmeier on the opening of the WFP Innovation Accelerator in Munich, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 11 July 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2016/160711\\_BM\\_WEPMuenchen.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2016/160711_BM_WEPMuenchen.html).

In September 2016, Germany funded humanitarian assistance, which was delivered to 60,000 people in Madaya, Zabadani, Foua and Kefraya in Syria by the WFP in coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.<sup>610</sup>

In September 2016, Germany provided humanitarian assistance to the World Food Programme, which enabled the organization to deliver emergency food provisions to Qayyarah, Iraq. Germany has earmarked nearly EUR1 billion in Iraq for 2016, making it the country's largest donor.<sup>611</sup> According to Germany's Federal Foreign Office, of this EUR1 billion, EUR500 million will support "stabilisation, humanitarian aid and development" and EUR500 million will be given in the form of a loan towards the implementation of "stabilisation measures."<sup>612</sup>

On 2 December 2016, Foreign Minister Steinmeier announced that Germany pledged EUR50 million in humanitarian aid to Aleppo, Syria.<sup>613</sup> These funds will go to several organizations, and are earmarked to provide "food, accommodation and medical assistance ... in and around the besieged city."<sup>614</sup> Minister Steinmeier also urged involved parties to resume discussions of a ceasefire.<sup>615</sup>

In 2016, Germany made directed multilateral contributions through the World Food Programme to Iraq in the amount of USD41,340,782 and to the Syrian Arab Republic in the amount of USD259,382,037.<sup>616</sup> Although it is unclear how much of this funding was contributed during the compliance period, Germany has also provided funding during 2017. To date, it has directed USD15,923,567 in multilateral contributions to Syria.<sup>617</sup>

In August 2016, Frank-Jürgen Weise, Head of Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, said that Germany is preparing to receive 250,000 to 300,000 refugees in 2017.<sup>618</sup>

In September, at the UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister Steinmeier condemned the recent attacks which ended the Syrian ceasefire, and reiterated the necessity of a political settlement for Syria.<sup>619</sup>

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<sup>610</sup> Aid reaches besieged cities in Syria. The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 8 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/HumanitaereHilfe/7\\_Aktuelles/160928\\_SYR\\_BelagerteStaedte.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/HumanitaereHilfe/7_Aktuelles/160928_SYR_BelagerteStaedte.html).

<sup>611</sup> Humanitarian aid reaches Qayyarah in northern Iraq, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 11 July 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/HumanitaereHilfe/7\\_Aktuelles/160908\\_Qayyarah\\_IRQ.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/HumanitaereHilfe/7_Aktuelles/160908_Qayyarah_IRQ.html).

<sup>612</sup> Humanitarian aid reaches Qayyarah in northern Iraq, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 11 July 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/HumanitaereHilfe/7\\_Aktuelles/160908\\_Qayyarah\\_IRQ.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/HumanitaereHilfe/7_Aktuelles/160908_Qayyarah_IRQ.html).

<sup>613</sup> Germany pledges 50 million euros in aid for Aleppo refugees, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 December 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.dw.com/en/germany-pledges-50-million-euros-in-aid-for-aleppo-refugees/a-36616321>.

<sup>614</sup> Germany pledges 50 million euros in aid for Aleppo refugees, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 December 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.dw.com/en/germany-pledges-50-million-euros-in-aid-for-aleppo-refugees/a-36616321>.

<sup>615</sup> Germany pledges 50 million euros in aid for Aleppo refugees, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 December 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.dw.com/en/germany-pledges-50-million-euros-in-aid-for-aleppo-refugees/a-36616321>.

<sup>616</sup> Germany – 2016, World Food Programme (Rome), Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.wfp.org/about/funding/governments/germany?year=2016>.

<sup>617</sup> Germany, World Food Programme (Rome) Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.wfp.org/about/funding/governments/germany?year=2017>.

<sup>618</sup> Germany expects up to 300,000 refugees in 2016, official says, The Guardian (Berlin) 28 August 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/28/germany-300000-refugees-2016-bamf>.

<sup>619</sup> Steinmeier at the meeting of the International Syria Support Group in New York, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/Friedenspolitik/VereinteNationen/00\\_Aktuell/160920\\_BM\\_UNGA\\_Syrien.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/Friedenspolitik/VereinteNationen/00_Aktuell/160920_BM_UNGA_Syrien.html).

On 23 September 2016, Germany pledged an additional EUR2 million to the Syrian White Helmets, a volunteer group providing on-the-ground humanitarian assistance in Syria. This top-up pledge makes Germany's total contribution to the White Helmets EUR7 million for 2016.<sup>620</sup>

In October 2016, Germany proposed the creation of the Mosul Stabilisation Council, which is aimed at the reconstruction and stabilisation of Mosul if it is recaptured by Iraqi security forces from ISIS. Foreign Minister Steinmeier said, "we need to do everything we can to ensure no new rifts are created within an already weakened Iraqi state" and "we know that we have to act quickly so that those who have had to flee their homes can have the confidence to return, and we can offer them a concrete future for living in their liberated city and rebuilding it."<sup>621</sup>

As of 2 November 2016, the Federal Foreign Office has committed EUR41 million in reconstruction assistance to Iraq for the year of 2016. This includes a commitment of EUR13.5 million to the Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization of the United Nations Development Programme.<sup>622</sup>

On 1 July 2016, Heiko Thoms, German Ambassador to the United Nations, made a statement at the UN General Assembly on global counter-terrorism strategy. He noted several existing German laws which counter terrorist activities. For example, in Germany, it is illegal for someone to support or be a member of a terrorist organization, and it is illegal to visit a terrorist training camp abroad. The ambassador reiterated support for the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. He also announced that Germany is creating a National Action Plan which will focus on the prevention of extremism and promotion of democracy.<sup>623</sup>

On 14 October 2016, Germany released a joint statement with thirteen other states asking that the United Nations take action to implement the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE).<sup>624</sup> The proposal also committed Germany and other states to the PVE, with states noting that they "intend to: lead by example ... act upon the General Assembly's call to develop and implement national and regional PVE Action Plans, and assist other Member States in doing so" among other things.<sup>625</sup>

On 27 September 2016, Bärbel Kofler, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office, said in an interview with Passauer Neue Presse

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<sup>620</sup> Federal Foreign Office to support Syrian White Helmets with seven million euros, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 23 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2016/160923\\_Weisshelme.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2016/160923_Weisshelme.html).

<sup>621</sup> Start of the liberation of Mosul, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 19 October 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/nn\\_729116/sid\\_B2AE4AE2DCCF7F2AE8F89F11BB6BB1F1/EN/Aussenpolitik/Laender/Aktuelle\\_Artikel/Irak/161019\\_Mosul.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/nn_729116/sid_B2AE4AE2DCCF7F2AE8F89F11BB6BB1F1/EN/Aussenpolitik/Laender/Aktuelle_Artikel/Irak/161019_Mosul.html).

<sup>622</sup> Germany providing reconstruction assistance in Iraq, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 2 November 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/RegionaleSchwerpunkte/NaherMittlererOsten/03\\_SMO/04\\_Aktuell/161102-Aufbauhilfe\\_Irak.html?nn=473482](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/RegionaleSchwerpunkte/NaherMittlererOsten/03_SMO/04_Aktuell/161102-Aufbauhilfe_Irak.html?nn=473482).

<sup>623</sup> General Assembly: Statement by Ambassador Thoms on "Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations (New York) 1 July 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.new-york-un.diplo.de/Vertretung/newyorkvn/en/\\_\\_pr/speeches-statements/2016/20160701-thoms-UNGlobal-counterterrorism.html?archive=3759636](http://www.new-york-un.diplo.de/Vertretung/newyorkvn/en/__pr/speeches-statements/2016/20160701-thoms-UNGlobal-counterterrorism.html?archive=3759636).

<sup>624</sup> Joint Statement on the Issue of Preventing Violent Extremism, Permanent Mission of France (Paris) 14 October 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.franceonu.org/Joint-statement-on-the-issue-of-preventing-violent-extremism>.

<sup>625</sup> Joint Statement on the Issue of Preventing Violent Extremism, Permanent Mission of France (Paris) 14 October 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.franceonu.org/Joint-statement-on-the-issue-of-preventing-violent-extremism>.

that the conflict required a negotiated solution. More specifically, he underlined the “need to work towards a long-term solution that leads to real peace.”<sup>626</sup>

On 10 October 2016, Foreign Minister Steinmeier called to extend the mandate of the Bundeswehr to fight IS.<sup>627</sup>

Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of +1 in its efforts to address support for displaced persons and their host communities, support sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, and eradicate conditions conducive to violent extremism.

*Analyst: Janelle Deniset*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to support displaced persons and their host communities, to help eliminate conditions that permit the spread of violent extremism, and to work towards a long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria.

Italy has exceeded Greece in accepting Syrian refugees and has taken substantive measures to address the issue of the Syrian refugee migration crisis.<sup>628</sup> According to recent statistics, Italy has seen the arrival of more Syrian migrants in 2016 than in 2015. This year alone, Italy has received about 171,000 migrants.<sup>629</sup> The Italian Ministry of Interior Figures states that there has been an increase by 15 per cent in the refugee arrival as compared to last year.<sup>630</sup>

Many Syrian refugees claim that the asylum system in Italy is “notoriously bad.”<sup>631</sup> The refugee registration procedure is inefficient, as none of the authorities present at the port or the asylum centre conduct checks over the refugees.<sup>632</sup> However, Italy is also one of the countries that has provided financial aid to Syrian refugees, in the amount of GBP64,432,296. Italy has provided aid in terms of setting up asylum centres and camps, food aid, medical aid, legal aid, and Italian lessons to the refugees,<sup>633</sup> along with allocating them EUR2.50 per day in the form of pocket money.<sup>634</sup> After a period of six months, refugees will also be granted a residence permit along with a work permit.<sup>635</sup>

On 14 September 2016, the Italian Cooperation service dispatched a humanitarian expedition from the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi to disperse eight tons of relief supplies to civilians in

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<sup>626</sup> Syria: “We need to work towards a long-term solution that leads to real peace.”, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Interview/2016/160927-MRHH\\_PNP.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Interview/2016/160927-MRHH_PNP.html).

<sup>627</sup> Resolute counter-terrorism: Steinmeier calls for extended mandate to fight IS, The Federal Foreign Office of the Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 October 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/GlobaleFragen/TerrorismusOK/20161020\\_Anti-IS-Mandat.html?nn=473482](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/GlobaleFragen/TerrorismusOK/20161020_Anti-IS-Mandat.html?nn=473482).

<sup>628</sup> Connor, P. (2016). Italy on track to surpass Greece in refugee arrivals for 2016. Retrieved December 02, 2016, from <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/11/02/italy-on-track-to-surpass-greece-in-refugee-arrivals-for-2016/>.

<sup>629</sup> News, B. (2016). Why is Italy seeing a record number of migrants? Retrieved November 30, 2016, from <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-38148110>.

<sup>630</sup> Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 339,783; Deaths at Sea: 4,233. (2016, November 08). Retrieved December 09, 2016, from <http://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-reach-339783-deaths-sea-4233>.

<sup>631</sup> Doornbos, H., & Moussa, J. (2015, April 15). Italy Opens the Door to Disaster. Retrieved December 09, 2016, from <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/13/italy-islamic-state-syria-refugees/>.

<sup>632</sup> Doornbos, H., & Moussa, J. (2015, April 15). Italy Opens the Door to Disaster. Retrieved December 09, 2016, from <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/13/italy-islamic-state-syria-refugees/>.

<sup>633</sup> Aid to refugees: How do European countries compare? (2015, September 03). Retrieved December 02, 2016, from <http://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/news/aid-to-refugees-how-do-european-countries-compare/>.

<sup>634</sup> Factbox: Benefits offered to asylum seekers in European countries. (2015, September 16). Retrieved December 02, 2016, from <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-benefits-factbox-idUSKCNORG1MJ20150916>.

<sup>635</sup> Aid to refugees: How do European countries compare? (2015, September 03). Retrieved December 02, 2016, from <http://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/news/aid-to-refugees-how-do-european-countries-compare/>.

the areas of Aleppo, Idlib and Hama. This aid included tents, blankets, plastic canopies for temporary shelter, electric generator and first-aid kits.<sup>636</sup>

On 19 September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly introduced the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in order to assist Syrian refugees and reduce human suffering. According to the reports of the UNHCR, Italy has contributed EUR2 million to UNHCR to set up “health and sanitation interventions in Lebanon and Jordan.”<sup>637</sup> The World Bank Group has increased funding for refugees to help host countries create jobs and improve their well-being.<sup>638</sup> The Prime Minister of Italy, Matteo Renzi, urged the international community to work towards the refugee crisis and solve the issue, aiming for long-term sustainability.<sup>639</sup> He insisted that “we have to save lives now” as evidenced in Italy’s plan to work with Africa to combat the root causes of migration.<sup>640</sup> Italy’s contribution is considered to be a part of the “humanitarian aid package.”

On 30 January, 2017, the Italian government and church officials welcomed 41 Syrian refugees at Rome's airport. These refugees were resettled in Italy through the “humanitarian corridor” agreement between the Italian government and a Catholic-Protestant coalition. The abovementioned 41 Syrians were brought to Italy by the Sant'Egidio Community and the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy, which works to provide safe passage to Italy in an attempt to counter deadly smuggling rings working in the Mediterranean.<sup>641</sup> The project is facilitated through a collaboration with aid workers on the ground in Lebanon who arrange for visas through the Italian embassy; once in Italy, the church groups “take charge of finding the refugees housing, schooling and other immediate services to help them integrate into Italian society.”<sup>642</sup>

Thus, Italy gets a score of 0 for its commitment to supporting displaced persons and their host communities, contributing to the elimination of the conditions that permit the spread of violent extremism, and working towards long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria.

*Analyst: Zaineb Hyder*

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<sup>636</sup> Italy dispatches humanitarian convoy for the people of Syria, Farnesina, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale. 16 September 2016. Date of Access: 12 April 2017. [http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2016/09/dall-italia-un-convoglio-umanitario.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2016/09/dall-italia-un-convoglio-umanitario.html)

<sup>637</sup> Syria - Italy gives UNHCR two million euros to assist refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. (2016, November 21). Retrieved December 10, 2016, from [http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2016/11/siria-dall-italia-due-milioni-di.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2016/11/siria-dall-italia-due-milioni-di.html).

<sup>638</sup> General Assembly Adopts Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, as United Nations, International Organization for Migration Sign Key Agreement | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (2016, September 19). Retrieved December 02, 2016, from <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11820.doc.htm>.

<sup>639</sup> General Assembly Adopts Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, as United Nations, International Organization for Migration Sign Key Agreement | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (2016, September 19). Retrieved December 02, 2016, from <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11820.doc.htm>.

<sup>640</sup> General Assembly Adopts Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, as United Nations, International Organization for Migration Sign Key Agreement | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (2016, September 19). Retrieved December 02, 2016, from <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11820.doc.htm>.

<sup>641</sup> Italy welcomes 41 Syrian refugees, seeks bridges not walls, The Associated Press, Times Colonist. 30 January 2017. Date of Access: 12 April 2017. <http://www.timescolonist.com/italy-welcomes-41-syrian-refugees-seeks-bridges-not-walls-1.9502173>

<sup>642</sup> Italy welcomes 41 Syrian refugees, seeks bridges not walls, The Associated Press, Times Colonist. 30 January 2017. Date of Access: 12 April 2017. <http://www.timescolonist.com/italy-welcomes-41-syrian-refugees-seeks-bridges-not-walls-1.9502173>



**Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to support displaced persons and their host communities, to help eliminate conditions that permit the spread of violent extremism, and to work towards long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria.

Japan has supported displaced persons and their host communities through financial aid that lightens the strain on basic services and helps organizations rapidly distribute resources to Syrians.

On 27 October 2016, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hosted a Japan-Jordan summit meeting with King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan, as well as with Japanese and Jordanian delegates.<sup>643</sup> Prime Minister Abe acknowledged Jordan as an essential presence in the Middle East, and sought to alleviate the economic and social burdens experienced by Jordan due to its generosity towards refugees.<sup>644</sup> Subsequently, Abe announced that the Japanese government would provide Jordan with JPY30 billion as part of a new development policy loan.<sup>645</sup> The summit meeting ended with the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Shuichi Sakurai, and the minister of planning and international cooperation of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan, Imad Najib Fakhoury, signing a JPY1 billion grant to provide Jordan with security equipment made in Japan. The grant is intended to 1) stabilize Jordan by improving security; and 2) facilitate Japanese companies' overseas expansion. The press release on the signing of this grant additionally states: "Terrorists are feared to flow into Jordan along with Syrian refugees."<sup>646</sup> This grant is thus intended to improve security in Jordan by keeping terrorists, and possibly refugees themselves, out of the country, and to support Japanese companies. It does not seek to support displaced persons or to eradicate conditions conducive to violent extremism or to stabilize the situation in Syria itself.

On 2 August 2016, the Japanese government revealed that it would contribute an emergency grant aid of USD300,000 to UNICEF and the World Health Organization.<sup>647</sup> Due to the lack of public health services in Syria, there has been an increase in vaccine-preventable diseases in the region.<sup>648</sup> The purpose of this emergency grant aid is to support nationwide multi-antigen vaccination campaigns in Syria.<sup>649</sup>

On 16 September 2016, Japan also distributed an emergency grant aid of USD4.7 million to three organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to help improve humanitarian efforts in Syria.<sup>650</sup> These efforts provide water, basic hygiene, education and healthcare

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<sup>643</sup> Japan-Jordan Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 October 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/me\\_a/me1/jo/page4e\\_000544.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me1/jo/page4e_000544.html).

<sup>644</sup> Japan-Jordan Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 October 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/me\\_a/me1/jo/page4e\\_000544.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me1/jo/page4e_000544.html).

<sup>645</sup> Japan-Jordan Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 October 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/me\\_a/me1/jo/page4e\\_000544.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me1/jo/page4e_000544.html).

<sup>646</sup> Signing and Exchange of Notes concerning Grant Aid to Jordan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 October 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001325.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001325.html).

<sup>647</sup> Emergency Grant Aid for Vaccination Campaigns in Syria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 2 August 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001222.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001222.html).

<sup>648</sup> Emergency Grant Aid for Vaccination Campaigns in Syria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 2 August 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001222.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001222.html).

<sup>649</sup> Emergency Grant Aid for Vaccination Campaigns in Syria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 2 August 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001222.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001222.html).

<sup>650</sup> Emergency Grant Aid for improvement of humanitarian situation in Syria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 September 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001276.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001276.html).

to areas where access has been limited as a result of heavy fighting. Syrian refugees and their host communities in Jordan also receive education and vocational training by means of this funding.<sup>651</sup>

On 19 September 2016, at the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, Prime Minister Abe pledged to provide an assistance package of approximately USD2.8 billion to refugees from 2016 to 2018.<sup>652</sup> This package will go towards providing refugees, migrants and their host communities with humanitarian aid and resources that will promote self-sufficiency.<sup>653</sup>

Japan has also taken steps to help eliminate conditions that permit the spread of violent extremism.

On 14 October 2016, Japan released a joint statement with thirteen other states asking that the United Nations take action to implement the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE).<sup>654</sup> The proposal also committed Japan and other states to the PVE, which states that they "intend to: lead by example ... act upon the General Assembly's call to develop and implement national and regional PVE Action Plans, and assist other Member States in doing so" among other things.<sup>655</sup>

Japan has also taken some action to work towards the cessation of hostilities in Syria. On 8 December 2016, Japan collaborated with Canada and several other nations on a letter to the United Nations Secretary General that requested a formal plenary session to discuss the situation in Syria and encourage action.<sup>656</sup> During that meeting, the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Koro Bessho, called for a "prompt cessation of hostilities" and a political process to end the conflict based on UN resolution 2254.<sup>657</sup>

On 12 September 2016, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida issued a statement in which he applauded the United States and Russia for coming to an agreement of nationwide cessation of hostilities.<sup>658</sup> In conjunction with the improvement of humanitarian efforts, Kishida believed that this would lead to progress in Syria's political process.<sup>659</sup>

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<sup>651</sup> Emergency Grant Aid for improvement of humanitarian situation in Syria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 September 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016.

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001276.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001276.html).

<sup>652</sup> Statement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 19 September 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016.

[http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97\\_abe/statement/201609/1219187\\_11015.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201609/1219187_11015.html).

<sup>653</sup> Statement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 19 September 2016. Date of Access: 10 December 2016.

[http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97\\_abe/statement/201609/1219187\\_11015.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201609/1219187_11015.html).

<sup>654</sup> Joint Statement on the Issue of Preventing Violent Extremism, Permanent Mission of France (Paris) 14 October 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.franceonu.org/Joint-statement-on-the-issue-of-preventing-violent-extremism>.

<sup>655</sup> Joint Statement on the Issue of Preventing Violent Extremism, Permanent Mission of France (Paris) 14 October 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.franceonu.org/Joint-statement-on-the-issue-of-preventing-violent-extremism>.

<sup>656</sup> Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly Under Agenda Item 31, United Nations (New York) 8 December 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.un.org/pga/71/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2015/08/plenary-meeting-of-the-General-Assembly-under-agenda-item-31-Prevention-of-Armed-Conflict.pdf>.

<sup>657</sup> Statement by Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Koro Bessho at the Emergency Meeting on Syria, Aleppo, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (Tokyo) 13 December 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. <http://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/statements/bessho121316.html>.

<sup>658</sup> Arrangement between the United States and Russia on cessation of hostilities in Syria (Statement by Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 September 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001270.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001270.html).

<sup>659</sup> Arrangement between the United States and Russia on cessation of hostilities in Syria (Statement by Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 September 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001270.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001270.html).

On 21 September 2016 Foreign Minister Kishida, held a meeting with Sergey Lavrov, the minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation. During this meeting, Foreign Minister Kishida informed Foreign Minister Lavrov of his concern that the recent agreement between Russia and the US was in danger.<sup>660</sup> Indicating the importance of having a ceasefire not only for the safe distribution of resources but also for potential talks of peace and democracy, Foreign Minister Kishida urged Russia to uphold its prior agreement.<sup>661</sup>

Thus, Japan has provided some support for displaced people and has encouraged countries to support the UN's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and has supported further dialogue on the issue. It therefore receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Risa Howell*

### **United Kingdom +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitments to support displaced persons and their host communities, work towards long-term, sustainable, post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria and eradicate conditions conducive to violent extremism.

The United Kingdom is committed to helping resettle thousands of refugees; by 2020, the government aims to have accepted 20,000 Syrians. For five years, refugees will have Humanitarian Protection status; after those five years, individuals can apply for permanent residence.<sup>662</sup> Individuals will also be quickly assimilated into British society with provisions regarding employment and education.<sup>663</sup> Where housing is concerned, the majority of Syrian refugees will be housed in the private sector.<sup>664</sup> To this end, the UK government has come up with a series of provisions to incentivize landlords to rent out apartments to refugees.<sup>665</sup>

Nonetheless, some officials are concerned that the UK will not be able to resettle 20,000 refugees in the next couple of years. Some believe that approximately 5,000 additional homes and over 10,000 additional school placements would be needed in order to successfully accommodate this number.<sup>666</sup> Despite these concerns, the home secretary recently stated there are enough spots for refugees, though not all concerns regarding insufficient placements have been addressed by the government.<sup>667</sup> Further, Britain has committed GBP10 million to teach incoming Syrians English.<sup>668</sup> There has been a lack of

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<sup>660</sup> Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 21 September 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/erp/rss/northern/page3e\\_000611.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/erp/rss/northern/page3e_000611.html).

<sup>661</sup> Japan-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 21 September 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/erp/rss/northern/page3e\\_000611.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/erp/rss/northern/page3e_000611.html).

<sup>662</sup> Melanie Gower and Ben Politowski, Syrian refugees and the UK response, UK Parliament 10 June 2016. Date of Access 8 December 2016. <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06805#fullreport>.

<sup>663</sup> Syrian refugees enjoy more support than others, AMs told, BBC News (London) 7 December 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-38240339>.

<sup>664</sup> How much does it cost UK councils to take in refugees?, The Guardian (London) 14 July 2016. Date of Access 3 December 2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2016/jul/14/cost-uk-councils-take-in-syrian-refugees>.

<sup>665</sup> Citizens UK Resettlement Housing Resource, Refugees Welcome February 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. <https://www.refugees-welcome.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Citizens-UK-Housing-Resource.pdf>.

<sup>666</sup> School places and homes 'risk to Syrian refugee resettlement', BBC News (London) 13 September 2016. Date of Access: 6 December 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37347264>.

<sup>667</sup> Syrian refugee places for 20,000 'secured' in UK, BBC News (London) 4 September 2016. Date of Access: 7 December 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37268971>.

<sup>668</sup> Syrian refugee places for 20,000 'secured' in UK, BBC News (London) 4 September 2016. Date of Access: 7 December 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37268971>.

access to English classes for refugees; however, new funding commitments to these lessons will help remedy this problem for immigrants.<sup>669</sup>

The UK is also committed to creating a long-term sustainable Syria. Military forces are partnering with the New Syrian Army against the Islamic State.<sup>670</sup> In 2016, the UK's focus will be on supporting the UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. The government believes that supporting these types of initiatives will help prevent the spread of extremism on a global scale.<sup>671</sup>

The UK has committed to stopping extremist behaviour in Syria and surrounding countries. The government of the United Kingdom has stated its willingness to empower currently subjugated women in civic discussion regarding the creation of peace in their home countries. The government of the United Kingdom believes that this form of civic engagement will help counteract extremist rhetoric, and will aid in the empowerment of women and girls.<sup>672</sup> Further, the UK is taking action to prevent the likelihood of a terrorist attack on its soil. The government is providing all citizens with the Stop Terrorists' and Extremists' Online Presence reporting tool, and anonymous reports can be made to police as well. The UK also advocates overall heightened awareness of one's surroundings; if anything is suspicious, civilians are told, then it should be reported. The government hopes that these initiatives will reduce the likelihood of a terrorist attack and the spread of extremist beliefs on United Kingdom soil.<sup>673</sup>

Thus, the United Kingdom has been awarded a score of +1 for its aid to Syrian refugees and other host countries, as well as for its efforts towards the empowerment of refugees.

*Analyst: Mariah Stewart*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to support displaced persons and their host communities, work towards a long-term, sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, and eradicate conditions conducive to violent extremism. The US has done this by accepting Syrian refugees, helping regions hosting refugees, and laying out guidelines geared at preventing violent extremism.

On 29 August 2016, Secretary of State John Kerry announced in a press statement that the United States had reached President Obama's goal of admitting 10,000 refugees from Syria.<sup>674</sup> In addition, the Obama administration set a new goal, seeking to admit 110,000 refugees to the United States, including many Syrian refugees over the fiscal year of 2017 beginning on 1 October 2016.<sup>675</sup> On 27 September 2016, the US Department of State stated in a fact sheet that they were providing more than USD364 million to Syria and the surrounding region, bringing total humanitarian assistance to

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<sup>669</sup> Syrian refugee places for 20,000 'secured' in UK, BBC News (London) 4 September 2016. Date of Access: 7 December 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37268971>.

<sup>670</sup> Britain's secretive and lethal force in Syria, BBC News (London) 8 August 2016. Date of Access: 3 December 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37013583>.

<sup>671</sup> Human Rights and Democracy Report 2015, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 21 July 2016. Date of Access 1 December 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2015/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2015>.

<sup>672</sup> Human Rights and Democracy Report 2015, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 21 July 2016. Date of Access 1 December 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2015/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2015>.

<sup>673</sup> Counter Terrorism Awareness Week 2016, National Counter Terrorism Security Office 28 November 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/counter-terrorism-awareness-week-2016>.

<sup>674</sup> Remarks by Secretary John Kerry, US Department of State (Washington, DC) 29 August 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/08/261347.htm>.

<sup>675</sup> White House raises refugee target to 110,000, The Washington Post U.S. & World Edition (Washington) 14 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/09/14/white-house-plans-to-accept-at-least-110000-refugees-in-2017/>.

USD5.9 billion since the start of the conflict.<sup>676</sup> Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Lebanon and the Lebanese government will receive over USD36 million (for a total of USD1.2 billion since 2012) to help with providing education, safe shelters, mental healthcare, and more humanitarian programs.<sup>677</sup> The country of Jordan will receive more than USD19 million (for a total of USD814 million since 2012) to aid with meeting basic refugee needs and strengthening relevant infrastructure.<sup>678</sup> Turkey will receive more than USD25 million (for a total of USD440 million since 2012) to address the humanitarian needs of the 2.7 million refugees in it.<sup>679</sup> Iraq and Egypt will both receive more than USD7 million towards the establishment of more refugee camps and the provision of protection and assistance to refugees in both established and new camps.<sup>680</sup> In the sense of admitting refugees and aiding burdened regions, the United States has complied with this commitment.

The United States has thus far failed to implement the guidelines set out in UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2254, 2258, and 2268. Representatives of the Russian and US governments reached a tentative cease-fire agreement with the Syrian government on 10 September 2016.<sup>681</sup> On 17 September 2016, the US government confirmed that a US-led airstrike targeting the Islamic State had accidentally killed 62 of President Bashar Al-Assad's troops, violating the cease-fire; two days later, President Bashar Al-Assad ended the cease-fire agreement.<sup>682</sup> On 3 October 2016, the US Department of State announced that the United States had officially suspended bilateral negotiations with Russia over efforts to sustain a cessation of hostilities in Syria.<sup>683</sup> On 15 October 2016, a round of multilateral talks involving the United States, Russia, and other regional powers took place in Switzerland, with no agreement reached by the end of the meeting.<sup>684</sup> In this sense, the US has failed to ensure long-term, sustainable post-conflict stability and rehabilitation of Syria, and thus cannot be said to be in complete compliance with this commitment.

The US government has also laid out guidelines geared at helping to prevent violent extremism, and has provided aid for the empowerment of Syrian refugees and prevention of further radicalization. On 6 July 2016, the Department of Homeland Security announced a Countering Violent Extremism Grant Program available to non-governmental organizations and institutions of higher educations, to be used towards countering violent extremism programs.<sup>685</sup> The program outlines five focus areas: 1) developing resilience; 2) training and engaging with community members; 3) managing

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<sup>676</sup> U.S. Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Office of the Spokesperson (Washington, DC) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262482.htm>.

<sup>677</sup> U.S. Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Office of the Spokesperson (Washington, DC) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262482.htm>.

<sup>678</sup> U.S. Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Office of the Spokesperson (Washington, DC) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262482.htm>.

<sup>679</sup> U.S. Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Office of the Spokesperson (Washington, DC) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262482.htm>.

<sup>680</sup> U.S. Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Office of the Spokesperson (Washington, DC) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262482.htm>.

<sup>681</sup> Kerry announces US-Russia deal on Syrian ceasefire, CNN Politics (Atlanta, Georgia) 10 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/09/politics/syria-ceasefire-kerry-lavrov/>.

<sup>682</sup> U.S. Admits Airstrike in Syria, Meant to Hit ISIS, Killed Syrian Troops, The New York Times (New York) 17 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/18/world/middleeast/us-airstrike-syrian-troops-isis-russia.html>.

<sup>683</sup> Press Statement by John Kirby, Assistant Secretary and Department Spokesperson, Bureau of Public Affairs (Washington, DC) 3 October 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/10/262704.htm>.

<sup>684</sup> Syria: US, Russia, regional powers fail to reach breakthrough in talks on conflict, CNN World (Atlanta, Georgia) 15 October 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/15/world/syria-talks-switzerland-us-russia/>.

<sup>685</sup> FY 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program, Department of Homeland Security (Washington, DC) 6 July 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <https://www.dhs.gov/cvegrants>.

intervention activities; 4) challenging the narrative; and 5) building the capacities of community-level non-profit organizations active in Countering Violent Extremism.<sup>686</sup>

As of 27 September 2016, the United States has provided more than USD205 million in aid to NGOs.<sup>687</sup> This funding will assist with the supply of food vouchers/parcels, support to education, access to health and mental health care and the funding of shelter.<sup>688</sup> US aid to non-governmental organizations within Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt will be used towards early childhood education for young refugee children, helping to provide a safe space for them to learn and grow, provide vocational training and literacy training, and empower women and educate refugees in general about the wrongs of gender-based violence.<sup>689</sup>

On 20 September 2016, the US government announced the Commitments to the Call to Action for Private Sector Engagement on the Global Refugee Crisis, in which 51 American companies committed to empowering Syrian refugees in the following areas: (1) education: ensuring access to schools and facilitating creation of education programs and platforms for refugees; (2) employment: increasing and supporting employment opportunities and entrepreneurship for refugees; (3) enablement: increasing humanitarian finance, strengthening infrastructure, and supporting countries in welcoming new refugees.<sup>690</sup> The US has laid out guidelines relating to the suppression of the spread of violent extremism and has helped NGOs in this effort as well.

Thus, the United States has been awarded a score of 0 for its aid to Syrian refugees and Syrian refugee-burdened countries, and its efforts towards refugee empowerment.

*Analyst: Adit Tandon*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has complied with its commitment to support displaced persons and their host communities, support sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, and eradicate conditions conducive to violent extremism.

Prior to the May Ise-Shima Summit, in February 2016 at the London Summit, the European Union and its Member States pledged more than EUR3 billion “to assist the Syrian people inside Syria as well as refugees and the communities hosting them in the neighbouring countries for the year 2016.”<sup>691</sup>

On 19 June 2016, the EU released a joint statement through its European External Action Service (EEAS) for the occasion of World Refugee Day. This statement reiterated the EU’s continued efforts

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<sup>686</sup> Fact Sheet: FY 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program, Department of Homeland Security (Washington, DC) 6 July 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2016/07/06/fy-2016-countering-violent-extremism-cve-grants>.

<sup>687</sup> U.S. Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Office of the Spokesperson (Washington, DC) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262482.htm>.

<sup>688</sup> U.S. Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Office of the Spokesperson (Washington, DC) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262482.htm>.

<sup>689</sup> U.S. Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Office of the Spokesperson (Washington, DC) 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 11 December 2016. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262482.htm>.

<sup>690</sup> Fact Sheet: White House Announces Commitments to the Call to Action for Private Sector Engagement on the Global Refugee Crisis, The White House (Washington DC) 20 September 2016. Date Accessed: 11 December 2016. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/20/fact-sheet-white-house-announces-commitments-call-action-private-sector>.

<sup>691</sup> EU pledges more than €3 billion for Syrians in 2016 at the London conference, European Commission (Brussels) 4 February 2016. Date of Access: 2 April 2017. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-245\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-245_en.htm)

to share responsibility for displaced persons and their host communities.<sup>692</sup> Representatives of the EEAS emphasized that more than EUR10 billion has been allocated in the EU's 2015 and 2016 budget to addressing the refugee crisis within the EU and in other host countries.<sup>693</sup>

On 22 June 2016, The European Commission announced projects worth more than EUR200 million to support nearly one million refugees fleeing the war in Syria and their overstretched host communities in Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon.<sup>694</sup> The assistance package was adopted at the fourth board meeting of the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis. The board meeting included the European Commission, EU members, representatives from Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, and representatives of international financial institutions.<sup>695</sup>

On 7 July 2016, the European Union provided an online update about its ongoing initiative entitled "Promoting social cohesion and moderate voice in Syria," first launched in 2015. The initiative, implemented by Search for Common Ground, is designed to "provide Syrian civil society actors with a tailor-made approach for supporting new and existing initiatives through capacity building, networking, sub grants and continual mentoring to promote social cohesion and non-violent mobilisation and to amplify moderate narratives."<sup>696</sup> In total, as of July 2016, the EU had contributed over EUR1 million to the project.<sup>697</sup>

On 7 July 2016, the EU also provided an update on an ongoing project entitled "Bridging Syria's divides," implemented by BBC Media. The mass media project, aired through radio and online platforms, was designed in 2015 to "build resilience and social cohesion to counter violent conflict and radicalisation across all sections of Syrian society."<sup>698</sup> As of July 2016, the European Union had contributed a total amount of over EUR2 million to the initiative.<sup>699</sup>

On 14 August 2016, the EU declared that its joint police body (Europol) will deploy a team of 30 European anti-terror experts to Greece to single out potential extremists in refugee camps.<sup>700</sup>

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<sup>692</sup> Joint Statement ahead of World Refugee Day 2016, The European Union and the European External Action Service (EEAS) (Brussels) 19 June 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4896/joint-statement-ahead-of-world-refugee-day-2016\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4896/joint-statement-ahead-of-world-refugee-day-2016_en).

<sup>693</sup> Joint Statement ahead of World Refugee Day 2016, The European Union and the European External Action Service (EEAS) (Brussels) 19 June 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4896/joint-statement-ahead-of-world-refugee-day-2016\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4896/joint-statement-ahead-of-world-refugee-day-2016_en).

<sup>694</sup> New EU package of more than €200 million to support one million refugees from Syria in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, The European Commission Press Release Office (Brussels) 22 June 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-2262\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2262_en.htm).

<sup>695</sup> New EU package of more than €200 million to support one million refugees from Syria in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, The European Commission Press Release Office (Brussels) 22 June 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-2262\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2262_en.htm).

<sup>696</sup> Promoting social cohesion and moderate voice in Syria, European Union External Action (Brussels) 7 July 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4956/promoting-social-cohesion-and-moderate-voice-syria\\_it](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4956/promoting-social-cohesion-and-moderate-voice-syria_it)

<sup>697</sup> Promoting social cohesion and moderate voice in Syria, European Union External Action (Brussels) 7 July 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4956/promoting-social-cohesion-and-moderate-voice-syria\\_it](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4956/promoting-social-cohesion-and-moderate-voice-syria_it)

<sup>698</sup> Bridging Syria's divides: Mass media programming and platforms to build resilience and social cohesion to counter violent conflict and radicalisation across all sections of Syrian society, European Union External Action (Brussels) 7 July 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4966/bridging-syrias-divides-mass-media-programming-and-platforms-build-resilience-and-social\\_fr](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4966/bridging-syrias-divides-mass-media-programming-and-platforms-build-resilience-and-social_fr)

<sup>699</sup> Bridging Syria's divides: Mass media programming and platforms to build resilience and social cohesion to counter violent conflict and radicalisation across all sections of Syrian society, European Union External Action (Brussels) 7 July 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4966/bridging-syrias-divides-mass-media-programming-and-platforms-build-resilience-and-social\\_fr](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4966/bridging-syrias-divides-mass-media-programming-and-platforms-build-resilience-and-social_fr)

<sup>700</sup> EU anti-terror team to track jihadists at Greek migrant camps, France 24 (Europe) 14 August 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. <http://www.france24.com/en/20160814-anti-terror-team-track-jihadists-greek-camps>.

On 14 September 2016, European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker said that the EU should play a role in Syrian peace negotiations,<sup>701</sup> Juncker insisted that it was “unthinkable for the European Union not to take part in the negotiations to resolve the war in Syria, and proposed developing a common European strategy for the war-torn Middle East country.”<sup>702</sup>

On 27 September 2016, the EU launched a EUR348 million aid project aimed at helping nearly one million Syrian refugees in Turkey.<sup>703</sup> The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) program provides Syrian refugees with debit cards to help Syrian refugees purchase food and other basic needs.<sup>704</sup> According to the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, the ESSN “is the largest ever humanitarian aid project funded by the European Union. It is also the largest ever humanitarian cash transfer program.”<sup>705</sup>

On 2 October 2016, the EU launched the Emergency Humanitarian Initiative for Aleppo, in cooperation with the United Nations. The initiative has two primary aims. The first is to deliver life-saving assistance, such as water, food and medical needs, to a proposed number of 130,000 civilians in East Aleppo.<sup>706</sup> In the statement given on 2 October, High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides, asserted that “An inter-agency convoy stands ready to move from West to East Aleppo drawing on prepositioned stocks made possible also through EU first line response funding.”<sup>707</sup> The second aim is to facilitate the medical evacuations of wounded and sick from Eastern Aleppo, placing a particular focus on “women, children and the elderly.”<sup>708</sup> The statement made on 2 October also asserted that “The EU stands ready to facilitate and support the evacuation and referral of patients to the adequate medical facilities in the region and if needed to Europe for specialised medical care not available in the region.”<sup>709</sup> In addition to these efforts, the EU also pledged a further EUR25 million in

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<sup>701</sup> EU should have role in Syria talks & own military HQ - Juncker’s annual address, Russia Today (RT) 14 September 2016 (last edited 1 December 2016). Date of Access: 9 December 2016. <https://www.rt.com/news/359316-eu-juncker-address-syria/>.

<sup>702</sup> EU should have role in Syria talks & own military HQ - Juncker’s annual address, Russia Today (RT) 14 September 2016 (last edited 1 December 2016). Date of Access: 9 December 2016. <https://www.rt.com/news/359316-eu-juncker-address-syria/>.

<sup>703</sup> EU unveils ‘debit card’ scheme for Syrian refugees in Turkey, euronews 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. <http://www.euronews.com/2016/09/27/eu-unveils-debit-card-scheme-for-syrian-refugees-in-turkey>.

<sup>704</sup> EU unveils ‘debit card’ scheme for Syrian refugees in Turkey, euronews 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. <http://www.euronews.com/2016/09/27/eu-unveils-debit-card-scheme-for-syrian-refugees-in-turkey>.

<sup>705</sup> EU unveils ‘debit card’ scheme for Syrian refugees in Turkey, euronews 27 September 2016. Date of Access: 8 December 2016. <http://www.euronews.com/2016/09/27/eu-unveils-debit-card-scheme-for-syrian-refugees-in-turkey>.

<sup>706</sup> Statement by the HR/VP Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on « an emergency humanitarian initiative for Aleppo », European Union External Action (Brussels) 2 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management_en)

<sup>707</sup> Statement by the HR/VP Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on « an emergency humanitarian initiative for Aleppo », European Union External Action (Brussels) 2 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management_en)

<sup>708</sup> Statement by the HR/VP Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on « an emergency humanitarian initiative for Aleppo », European Union External Action (Brussels) 2 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management_en)

<sup>709</sup> Statement by the HR/VP Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on « an emergency humanitarian initiative for Aleppo », European Union External Action (Brussels) 2 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management_en)



emergency aid relief in order to “support and scale up the first line response of its humanitarian partners to cover urgent medical, water and sanitation, and food assistance in Aleppo and in other priority areas across the country.”<sup>710</sup>

On 17 October 2016, the European Council Conclusions on Syria were published. The EU derided the “deteriorating situation in Syria” and strongly condemned “the excessive and disproportionate attacks by the regime [the Syrian regime] and its allies, both deliberate and indiscriminate, against civilian populations, humanitarian and healthcare personnel and civilian and humanitarian infrastructures and calls on them to cease indiscriminate aerial bombardments.”<sup>711</sup> The EU reasserted its continued commitment to easing the Syrian crisis and called for: “an end of all military flights over Aleppo city; an immediate cessation of hostilities to be monitored by a strong and transparent mechanism; sieges to be lifted; and full unhindered sustainable country-wide humanitarian access granted by all parties.”<sup>712</sup> The European Council Conclusions asserted that these actions were necessary precursors to a viable solution to the crisis.<sup>713</sup>

The EU has also taken some action to counter violent extremism during the compliance period. Between 10 and 11 November 2016, the EU Special Representative for Central Asia hosted a conference on “Preventing Violence Extremism in Central Asia – Challenges and Responses at Community Level.”<sup>714</sup> This conference was, in part, meant to allow the EU to develop a deeper knowledge of violent extremism and the types of initiatives that might be helpful in countering it.<sup>715</sup>

On 15 November 2016, the European Council announced that the EU and Lebanon had adopted partnership priorities for the next four years and a compact which will increase cooperation between the two nations. Specifically, the compact outlines the ways in which Lebanon and the EU will facilitate their pledges made at the February 2016 London conference on supporting Syria and the region.<sup>716</sup> The corresponding European Council press release asserts that, “The objective is to improve the living conditions both of refugees temporarily staying in Lebanon and of vulnerable host communities.”<sup>717</sup> The EU-Lebanon compact delineates that the EU will allocate a “minimum” of EUR400 million in 2016-2017 in order to address the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon, while Lebanon agreed to “ease the temporary stay of Syrian refugees, in particular regarding their residency status.”<sup>718</sup>

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<sup>710</sup> Statement by the HR/VP Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on « an emergency humanitarian initiative for Aleppo », European Union External Action (Brussels) 2 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/11086/statement-hrvp-federica-mogherini-and-commissioner-humanitarian-aid-and-crisis-management_en)

<sup>711</sup> Council conclusions on Syria, European Council. 17 October 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/10/17-fac-syria-conclusions/>

<sup>712</sup> Council conclusions on Syria, European Council. 17 October 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/10/17-fac-syria-conclusions/>

<sup>713</sup> Council conclusions on Syria, European Council. 17 October 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/10/17-fac-syria-conclusions/>

<sup>714</sup> Regional Conference on Preventing Violence Extremism in Central Asia, European Union External Action (Brussels) 10 – 11 November 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/12461/regional-conference-preventing-violent-extremism-central-asia\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/12461/regional-conference-preventing-violent-extremism-central-asia_en).

<sup>715</sup> Regional Conference on Preventing Violence Extremism in Central Asia, European Union External Action (Brussels) 10 – 11 November 2016. Date of Access: 6 March 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/12461/regional-conference-preventing-violent-extremism-central-asia\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/12461/regional-conference-preventing-violent-extremism-central-asia_en).

<sup>716</sup> EU and Lebanon adopt partnership priorities and compact, European Council. 15 November 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/11/15-eu-lebanon-partnership/>

<sup>717</sup> EU and Lebanon adopt partnership priorities and compact, European Council. 15 November 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/11/15-eu-lebanon-partnership/>

<sup>718</sup> EU and Lebanon adopt partnership priorities and compact, European Council. 15 November 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/11/15-eu-lebanon-partnership/>

Similarly, on 20 December 2016, the European Union announced that the EU and Jordan had adopted partnership priorities until the end of 2018 and a compact. The EU-Jordan compact delineates that the EU will allocate “at least” EUR747 million in 2016-2017, including EUR108 million in humanitarian aid and EUR200 million in macro-financial assistance.<sup>719</sup> In turn, Jordan pledged to “make it possible for over 165 000 Syrian children to access education and increase opportunities for Syrian youth to receive vocational training.”<sup>720</sup> Previously, on 19 July 2016, Jordan and the EU had agreed to “simplify rules of origin requirements to Jordan exports to the EU, provided job opportunities are offered to Syrian refugees, alongside Jordanians.”<sup>721</sup>

On 15 December 2016, in a set of meeting conclusions, the European Council outlined its approach to migration and security. The Council reaffirmed the European Union’s commitment and endorsement of several ongoing initiatives, including the Joint Action Plan on the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement elaborated between Greece and the Commission, the Valletta Action Plan, the Partnership Framework, and EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia (with the Libyan coastguard) to prevent “loss of life at sea and break the business model of smugglers.”<sup>722</sup> In regards to migration, the meeting conclusions indicated the need for member states to “further intensify their efforts to accelerate relocation, in particular for unaccompanied minors, and existing resettlement schemes.”<sup>723</sup> Finally, the European Council signaled its intention to work towards “achieving consensus on the EU’s asylum policy during the incoming Presidency.”<sup>724</sup>

In early January 2017, the EU conducted the second round of meetings pertaining to the European Union’s Regional Initiative on the future of Syria by holding a series of bilateral meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Qatar.<sup>725</sup> The initiative attempts to “identify common ground on the post-conflict arrangements for Syria, and on reconciliation and reconstruction once a credible political transition is

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<sup>719</sup> EU and Jordan adopted partnership priorities and compact, European Union External Action (Brussels) 20 December 2016. Date of Access 9 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/17639/eu-and-jordan-adopted-partnership-priorities-and-compact\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/17639/eu-and-jordan-adopted-partnership-priorities-and-compact_en)

<sup>720</sup> EU and Jordan adopted partnership priorities and compact, European Union External Action (Brussels) 20 December 2016. Date of Access 9 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/17639/eu-and-jordan-adopted-partnership-priorities-and-compact\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/17639/eu-and-jordan-adopted-partnership-priorities-and-compact_en)

<sup>721</sup> EU and Jordan adopted partnership priorities and compact, European Union External Action (Brussels) 20 December 2016. Date of Access 9 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/17639/eu-and-jordan-adopted-partnership-priorities-and-compact\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/17639/eu-and-jordan-adopted-partnership-priorities-and-compact_en)

<sup>722</sup> European Council meeting (15 December 2016) – Conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 15 December 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/RQRXT1KY/15-euco-conclusions-final.pdf

<sup>723</sup> European Council meeting (15 December 2016) – Conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 15 December 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/RQRXT1KY/15-euco-conclusions-final.pdf

<sup>724</sup> European Council meeting (15 December 2016) – Conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 15 December 2016. Date of Access: 9 April 2017. file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/RQRXT1KY/15-euco-conclusions-final.pdf

<sup>725</sup> Second round of meetings in the framework of the EU regional initiative on the future of Syria, European Union External Action (Brussels) 10 January 2017. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/18426/second-round-meetings-framework-eu-regional-initiative-future-syria\\_fr](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/18426/second-round-meetings-framework-eu-regional-initiative-future-syria_fr)

firmly under way.”<sup>726</sup> The initiative’s inaugural meetings had previously taken place in October 2016.<sup>727</sup>

Thus, the EU has been awarded a score of +1 in its efforts to address support for displaced persons and their host communities, support a sustainable post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation of Syria, and eradicate conditions conducive to violent extremism.

*Analyst: Ebrahim M.R. Lababidi*

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<sup>726</sup> Second round of meetings in the framework of the EU regional initiative on the future of Syria, European Union External Action (Brussels) 10 January 2017. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/18426/second-round-meetings-framework-eu-regional-initiative-future-syria\\_fr](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/18426/second-round-meetings-framework-eu-regional-initiative-future-syria_fr)

<sup>727</sup> Federica Mogherini to visit Tehran and Riyadh as part of the outreach on Syrian crisis, European Union External Action (Brussels) 28 October 2016. Date of Access: 10 April 2017. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/13523/federica-mogherini-to-visit-tehran-and-riyadh-as-part-of-the-outreach-on-syrian-crisis\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/13523/federica-mogherini-to-visit-tehran-and-riyadh-as-part-of-the-outreach-on-syrian-crisis_en)