

3RP KEY MESSAGES

March 2017



The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in response to the Syria Crisis brings together more than 240 partners in a coordinated, region-wide response to assist Syrian refugees and the communities hosting them.

The below key messages have been developed by the Regional Technical Committee (RTC) of the 3RP ahead of the Brussels Conference on 4-5 April 2017 to help update on issues and inform discussion.

Topline Messages

- A political solution urgently needed to end the conflict in Syria.
- In the meantime, the humanitarian situation in Syria remains dire, and Syrian refugees continue to need international protection.
- Refugees have grown increasingly vulnerable - with the vast majority living below the poverty line. 49 per cent of Syrian refugees are female, and 48 per cent are children.
- Host governments and communities continue to shoulder the greatest burdens from the political, economic, social and security spillovers of the conflict. Solidarity and responsibility-sharing with frontline neighbouring states are critical.
- 3RP partners commit to coordinated and innovative approaches to achieve joint outcomes that keep people's needs at the centre of our response.
- Strengthening the engagement of adolescents and youth in the design, implementation, review and adjustment of 3RP programmes to take account of their views is vital.
- The 3RP is only 6 per cent funded after three months of the year. The early disbursement of funds, including flexible and multi-year funding, is essential so agencies can better plan interventions, allocate resources and provide consistent assistance to beneficiaries.
- Reflecting a paradigm shift, resilience continues to expand across country plans and sectors. There is a need for new ways of working to enable a more integrated response to enhance economic opportunities and employment generation. Greater stakeholder coordination and dialogue is important to multiply achievements.
- Access to economic opportunities is vital for refugee families and the communities hosting them. A full range of approaches is required for job creation to meet the target of 1.1 million jobs by 2018, from offering short-term employment to addressing structural issues and labour market policies. This also includes partnership with the private sector

Detailed Messages

Syrian refugees continue to need international protection

- A political solution urgently needed to end the conflict in Syria.
- In the meantime, the humanitarian situation in Syria remains dire and violence continues.
- The sixth anniversary of the war has just passed, another grim milestone in the suffering of the Syrian people.
- There are now more than 4.96 million registered Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Despite the ongoing violence inside Syria, few Syrians are currently able to reach neighbouring countries, illustrating the ongoing management of borders across the region.
- Humanitarian partners call for respect of basic rights, protection and physical security of all populations, including those stranded at borders.

Vulnerabilities continue to increase

- Refugees face difficulties in accessing services, and providing food, housing, healthcare and other basic needs for their families.
- Refugees have grown increasingly vulnerable - with the vast majority living below the poverty line.
- 70 per cent of people in need are women and children.
- Close to 48 per cent of Syrian refugee children – 817,000 children - are out of school.
- Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the crisis, and are at higher risk of gender-based violence including domestic violence, sexual violence and exploitation, child marriage, and human trafficking.
- Palestinian refugees are particularly vulnerable. It is estimated that 120,000 have fled from Syria. Many have irregular status and are at risk of refoulement and other protection risks.
- The unemployment rate among host community members (especially among youth) has increased. The major challenges are the creation of economic opportunities and the access to these opportunities by the refugees and vulnerable host communities.

Host governments and communities continue to be key responders

- 3RP partners call upon the international community to support neighbouring States who are providing an enormous global good and bearing the financial and social costs of the refugee crisis.
- This includes commitments to resettlement and other forms of humanitarian admission to third countries as a contribution to international responsibility-sharing.
- Host governments and communities continue to shoulder the greatest burdens from the political, economic, social and security spillovers of the conflict. Solidarity and responsibility-sharing with frontline neighbouring states are critical.
- The protracted presence of large number of Syrian refugees is putting public institutions under extreme pressure to deliver basic services to an increasingly high number of vulnerable people. The consequences of the continuing conflict test the limits of infrastructure and public services that were already fragile before the crisis.

Access to livelihoods increasing, but more support needed

- The governments of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan agreed at the February 2016 London Conference to Compacts which contained notable commitments in the areas of education and livelihoods and employment.
- One year on, the progress made on policy and regulation change by the host countries needs continued support through strong, multi-year funding, concessional loans, development projects and market development.
- Scaled-up efforts are needed to provide refugees and host community members with short-term and long-term employment opportunities. Achieving the ambitious goal of creating 1.1 million jobs requires reinvigorated development co-ordination, private sector engagement, interaction of development and humanitarian assistance efforts and bold commitments from both host nations and international actors.
- As we learned from the Helsinki Conference, jobs remain one of the most useful and effective tools to respond to protracted crisis in the host countries.
- There is unprecedented commitment and generosity of host countries in supporting the response. Examples include expanding labor market access to refugees, efforts to reform regulatory frameworks, improve business climate to attract more investment, and expand trade opportunities (e.g., seizing the EU preferential trade agreement) to support longer-term growth.

Engaging youth more actively in society, labour markets and decision-making is critical.

- 3RP partners systematically collect evidence on programmes that benefit adolescents and youth, including through the use of age and sector appropriate indicators.
- Analyzing the needs of adolescents and youth, taking age, gender and diversity into account, will ensure sector programmes respond to their specific needs and capacities.
- Strengthening the engagement of adolescents and youth in the design, implementation, review and adjustment of 3RP programmes to take account of their views is vital.
- Scaling-up programmes with the specific purpose of adolescent and youth engagement, including youth-led delivery of community services and youth-led initiatives on protection and social cohesion, will help to ensure that refugees are the protagonists in fulfilling their own potential.

Coordinated response delivering vital assistance and capacities to refugees and host communities

- The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in response to the Syria Crisis brings together over 240 partners in a coordinated, region-wide response which plans to assist 4.7 million Syrian refugees and over 4.4 million members of the communities hosting them during 2017.
- The 3RP interagency appeal is for USD 4.63 billion in 2017.
- The 3RP is a strategy document, coordination platform, advocacy tool, and funding appeal.
- 3RP actors have throughout the crisis always planned to respond worst case scenarios yet continue to be hopeful that lasting peace and security will transpire. The 3RP offers a coordination platform to quickly respond to changing scenarios and situations throughout 2017 and 2018.

- Some key regional response achievements from the 2016 3RP include:
 - Cash assistance to over 294,950 households.
 - Food assistance to over 2.25 million individuals.
 - 919,670 targeted children were enrolled in formal education.
 - Primary health care consultations numbering 2,549,600.
 - Shelter assistance to over 107,100 households.
 - Improved access to adequate quantity of safe water to 1,149,900 individuals
 - Access to wage employment services, including support for livelihoods in the food and agricultural sector to over 50,960 individuals – with 1,376 community projects implemented.
 - Construction, renovation or rehabilitation of 917 educational facilities.

Funding not keeping up with needs, and urgent disbursement of pledges is needed

- 3RP partners are grateful for the generous pledges and disbursements made last year, which has seen the 3RP plan funded at 63 per cent in 2016, higher funding compared to previous years.
- More support is needed in 2017, including the early disbursement of funds so that agencies can better plan interventions, allocate resources and provide consistent assistance to beneficiaries.
- Flexible funding, including broadly earmarked contributions, further assists partners to respond to the most pressing needs.
- Donors are also encouraged to continue the positive trend toward multi-year contributions over the course of the 3RP 2017-2018. The generosity of donors in this respect is noted, but multi-year funding is not yet the norm when financing the response.
- Year after year, the funding for livelihoods sector has been critically underfunded despite increasing needs and commitments to create jobs.

Accountability: two-way communication with beneficiaries

- 3RP partners place beneficiary communities and people affected by the crisis at the centre of the response.
- Throughout the programme cycle, two-way communication and feedback mechanisms are tailored to address the needs of women, girls, men and boys and people in marginalized situations, such as the elderly or people with disabilities.