



Syrian Arab Republic



MANDATE

The aim of Handicap International's emergency response is to provide support to vulnerable people affected by the conflict in Syria. Its actions range from distributing essential non-food and food items to improving access to essential services for vulnerable people, providing prosthetics and orthotics fittings, distributing medical devices, providing psychosocial support and conducting physiotherapy sessions. The organisation has also developed a distance learning course for paramedical staff to ensure the appropriate case-management of people with war injuries. Lastly, Handicap International carries out urgent marking in places contaminated by explosive remnants of war and conducts risk education sessions. These operations are targeted at people living in Syria and Syrian refugees living in neighbouring countries, in preparation for their possible return to former conflict zones.

SITUATION

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in the Syrian conflict, which began in spring 2011. There are nearly 6,5 million internally displaced people as well as 13,5 million in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria and more than 4,8 million Syrians have taken refuge in neighbouring countries.¹ It is often difficult for civilians in Syria to access essential services and care, particularly those with injuries, disabled people and people with chronic diseases. Obstacles to case-managing Syrian civilians include damage to local infrastructure as a result of the fighting, travel restrictions placed on civilians, and the inability of international humanitarian organisations to launch large-scale operations due to the current situation on the field, particularly in terms of access and security.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Handicap International launched its response to the Syrian crisis in neighbouring countries - Lebanon and Jordan - in May 2012. The organisation has also been conducting operations inside Syria since November 2012. Handicap International extended its operations to include Syrian refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan in summer 2014. Lastly, the organization started its activities in Turkey in May 2016.

STAFF (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2016)

More than 350 people involved in Handicap International's operations in Syria²:

- Partners: 200
- Staff members: 123
- More than 500 people also involved in Handicap International's regional response to the Syrian crisis (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey).

KEY FACTS

Surface area **	185,180 sq.km.
Population (millions) **	22.0
Life expectancy*	69.6 years
Gross National Income per capita * (\$PPA)	\$ 2 728
Human development index (HDI) *	134/188 classified countries

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Ratified 10/07/2009
Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions	Non-signatory
Ottawa Mine Ban Convention	Non-signatory

* UNDP: 2015 human development report

** UNSD 2015

¹ OCHA – June 2016 (<http://www.unocha.org/syria>)

² As of summer 2016.

MAIN FUNDING BODIES (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2016)

<p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)</p>  <p>Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra</p> <p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC</p>	<p>European Commission (ECHO)</p> 	<p>EuropeAid</p> 
<p>Crisis center of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> 	<p>Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> 	<p>World Health Organization (WHO)</p> 
<p>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)</p> 		