



1. Key points

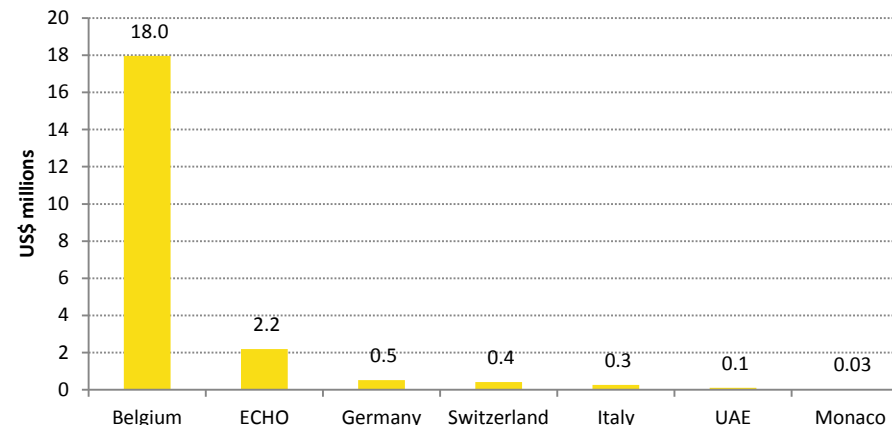
- According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), donors have committed/contributed **US\$21.5 million** of humanitarian assistance to Syria in 2016. Further pledges will be announced at the Syria pledging conference in London, UK, in early February.
- Belgium is currently the largest donor in 2016 with commitments of **US\$17.9 million**, all of which has been committed to the Syria Emergency Response Fund (ERF).
- In 2016, for the fifth year in a row, the requirements set out in the UN-coordinated appeal in response the emergency within Syria have risen, now totalling **US\$3.2 billion**
- **36%** of the total requirements in 2016 for the Syria humanitarian response plan have been requested for the food sector (**US\$1.1 billion**)
- In 2015, funding for Syria reached a record high with commitments/contributions totalling **US\$2.3 billion**, of which **55%** was channelled through the 2015 UN-coordinated Syria Response Plan (SRP).
- In 2015, the sector that received the highest volume of funding was food (**US\$738 million**), accounting for **32%** of commitments and contributions.

2. Recent humanitarian funding to Syria 2016

So far in 2016 seven donors have reported commitments/contributions totalling **US\$21.5 million** to Syria.

Belgium is currently the largest donor in 2016 with commitments of **US\$17.9 million: 84% of total** contributions and commitments. The European Commission's Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has reported the second highest volume so far (**US\$2.2 million**) followed by Germany (**US\$0.5 million**) and Switzerland (**US\$0.4 million**).

Figure 1: Donor contributions to Syria in 2016



Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS. Data downloaded 26 January 2016.

Note: ECHO: European Commission's Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection department; UAE: United Arab Emirates.

There is currently one outstanding pledge of **US\$5 million** reported in the FTS from Japan in 2016. This funding picture is likely to change significantly in the coming weeks following the Syria pledging conference that will be held on 5 February in London, UK. The hosts (UK, Norway, Germany and Kuwait) are likely to be among those making pledges to the responses both within Syria and in the region.

Humanitarian assistance, 2015ⁱ

A total of **US\$2.3 billion** was committed/contributed to Syria in 2015; 55% of this funding was channelled through the 2015 UN-coordinated Syria Response Plan (SRP).

The United States (US) was the largest donor in 2015 with contributions of **US\$753 million: 33% of total** contributions and commitments. The UK was the second largest donor last year (**US\$359 million**), followed by the EU institutions (**US\$247 million**), primarily ECHO, and Kuwait (**US\$115 million**). These four donors accounted for **65%** of all commitments and contributions in 2015.

2 | CRISIS BRIEFING Syria - conflict and food insecurity rural Damascus

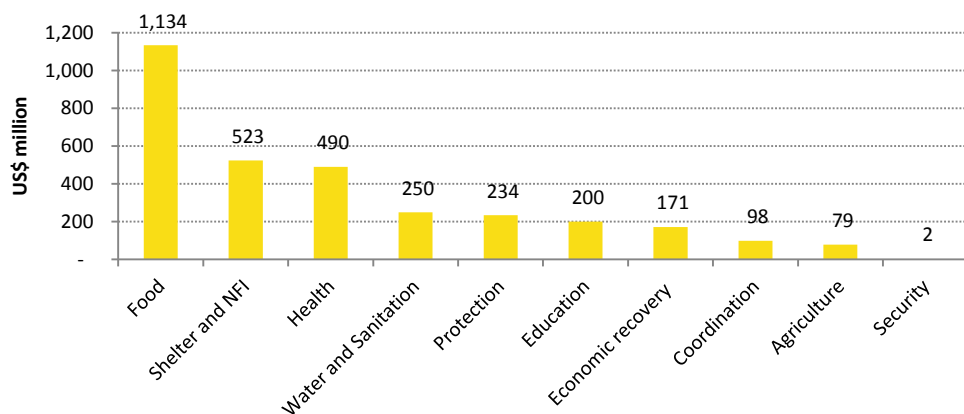
In the FTS in 2015 just US\$10.1 million was reported for rural Damascus. However, there are considerable limitations in the available data when trying to quantify volumes of funding to specific areas in the country and therefore this total is inconclusive.

3. Appeals and response plans

In 2016, for the fifth year in a row, the initial requirements set out in the UN-coordinated appeal in response to the emergency within Syria have risen, now totalling US\$3.2 billion. The 2016 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan has the second largest requirements of all the UN-coordinated appeals, second only to the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), which focuses on the needs of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.

Of the US\$3.2 billion requirements set out in the 2016 appeal, 36% has been requested for the food sector (US\$1.1 billion). The shelter and non-food item (NFIs) sector has the next highest level of requirements (US\$523 million) followed by health (US\$490 million) and water and sanitation (US\$250 million).

Figure 2: Requirements of the 2016 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan, by sector

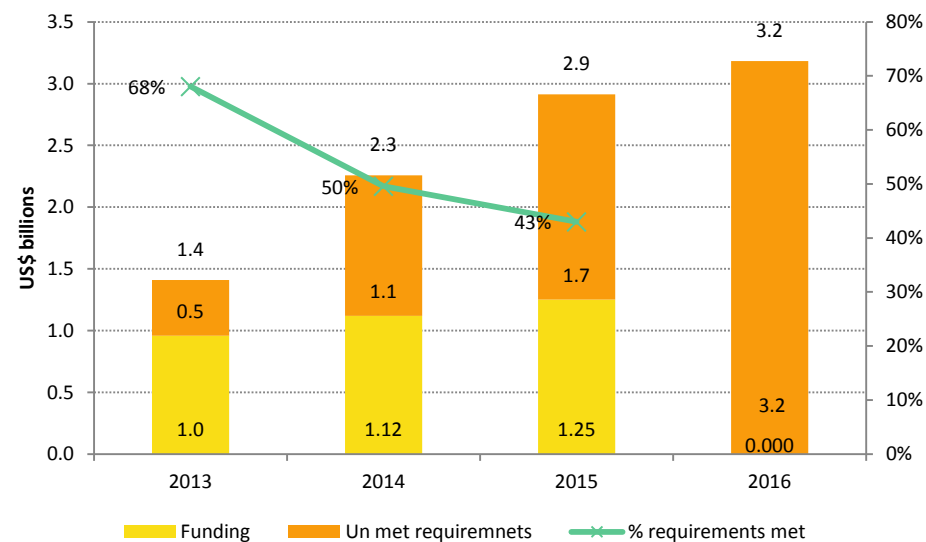


Source: UNOCHA FTS. Data downloaded 26 January 2016.

Note: NFI: non-food items; Protection: protection/human rights/rule of law; Economic recovery: economic recovery and infrastructure; Coordination: coordination and support services; Security: safety and security of staff and operations.

While funding levels to the UN-coordinated appeals for the response within Syria have increased slightly in the last few years they have not kept up to pace with the increase in appeal requirements. In 2013, only 68% of the US\$1.4 billion requirements were met, whereas in 2015 43% of the US\$2.9 billion requirements were met.

Figure 3: Requirements and funding to UN-coordinated Syria response plans, 2013–2016



Source: UNOCHA FTS data. Data downloaded 26 January 2016.

Note: Includes Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2013, Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) 2014, Syria Response Plan 2015 and the 2016 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan.

4. Pooled funding as part of the response

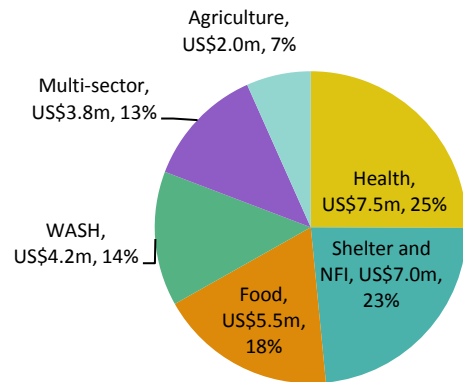
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

In 2016, Syria is yet to receive any funding through the CERF.

In 2015 Syria was the second largest recipient of CERF funding, receiving US\$29.9 million, which was 6.4% of total CERF allocations in the year. All funding was reported in the under-funded emergency window with a quarter (US\$7.5 million; 25%) of the funds directed to health projects. Funding from the CERF to the food sector totalled US\$5.5 million, accounting for 18% of the total allocation.

3 | CRISIS BRIEFING Syria - conflict and food insecurity rural Damascus

Figure 4: CERF allocations to Syria by sector, 2015



Source: Development Initiatives based on UN CERF data. Data downloaded on 26 January 2016.

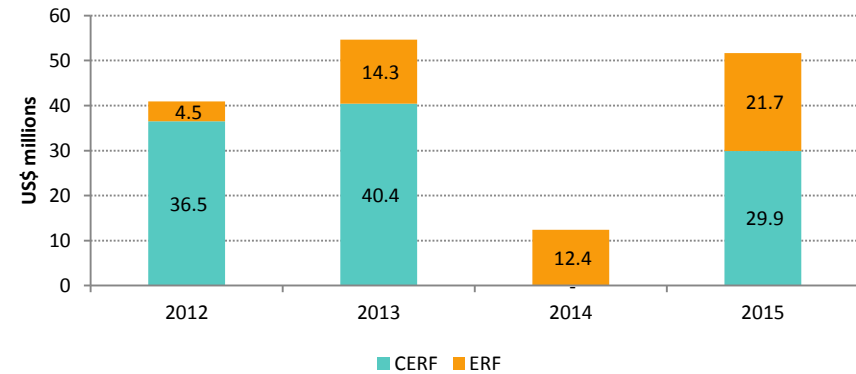
Note: Data from the CERF website can differ from the FTS dataset for CERF contributions.

Emergency Response Fund (ERF)

All of Belgium's US\$17.9 million reported funding has been committed to the Syria ERF. None of this funding has been reported as allocated to date.

In 2015, US\$21.7 million was allocated from the Syria ERF according to the UN OCHA FTS. Total commitments/contributions to the ERF from donors amounted to US\$38.4 million in 2015 (including a carry-over of US\$6.2 million), leaving US\$16.7 million that has yet to be reported as allocated.

Figure 5: Pooled funds to Syria, 2012–2015



Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data. Data downloaded on 26 January 2016.

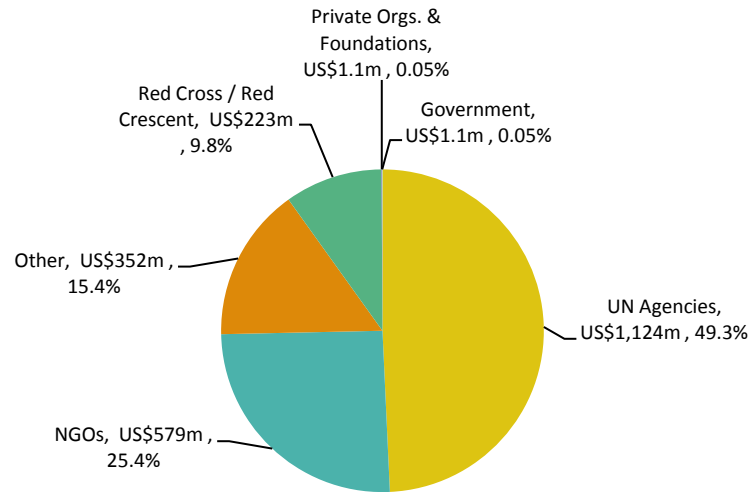
5. Channels of funding

The vast majority (97%) of funding reported so far in 2016 has been channelled through UN agencies. This high proportion is largely down to Belgium's commitment to the ERF.

In 2015, UN agencies received in total US\$1.1 billion (49% of the all commitments/contributions). The World Food Programme accounted for nearly 40% of the funding channelled through UN agencies. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) received 25% of funding (US\$579 million) in 2015.

4 | CRISIS BRIEFING Syria - conflict and food insecurity rural Damascus

Figure 6: Humanitarian assistance by funding channel, 2015



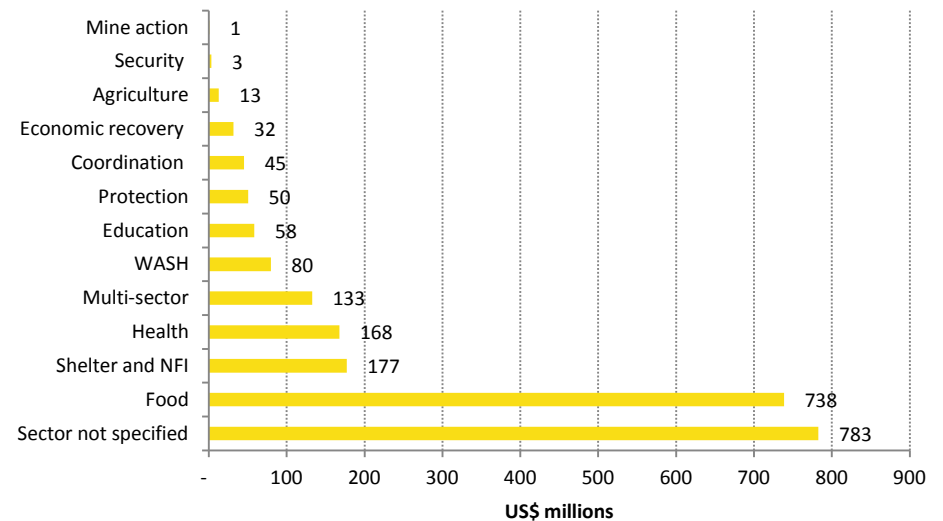
Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data. Data downloaded on 26 January 2016.

6. Funding to sectors

For the vast majority (86%) of funding reported in 2016 so far, the sector has yet to be specified.

In 2015, 34% (US\$783 million) of funding reported for Syria was not allocated to a specific sector. The sector that received the highest volume of funding was food (US\$738 million), accounting for 32% of commitments and contributions. This was over four times the amount for the next highest funded sector, shelter and non-food items (US\$177 million).

Figure 7: Humanitarian funding to Syria by sector, 2015



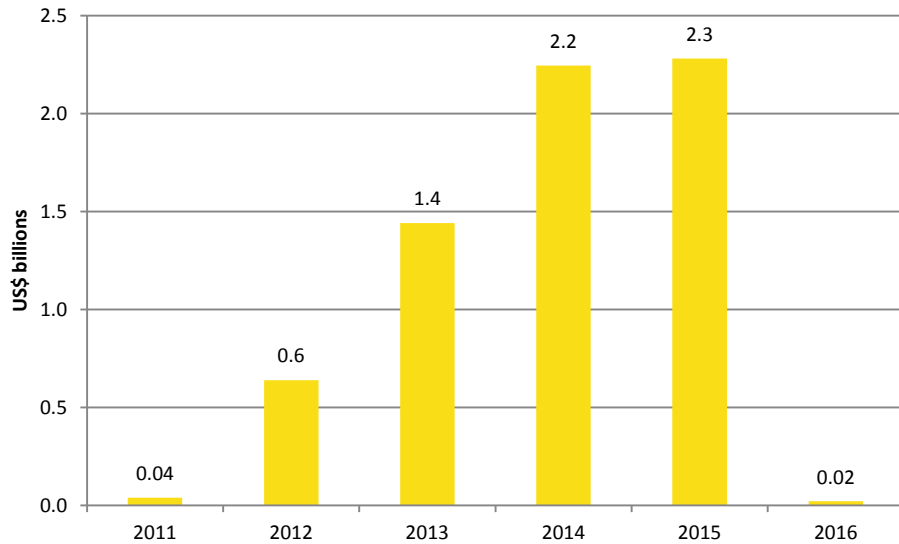
Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data. Data downloaded on 26 January 2016.

Notes: If funding is given in an un-earmarked manner and not yet allocated by the recipient agency to a particular project and sector, FTS shows the funding under the heading 'sector not yet specified'.

7. Humanitarian funding trends to Syria (historic)

Total humanitarian funding to Syria has increased year on year since the onset of the emergency in 2011. Funding more than doubled between 2012 and 2013 from US\$640 million to US\$1.4 billion. Funding increased again in 2014 to US\$2.2 billion and then reached record levels in 2015, totalling US\$2.3 billion. Of the total funding to Syria, between 2012 and 2015 46% has been channelled through the Syria UN-coordinated appeals.

Figure 8: Humanitarian assistance to Syria, 2011–2016



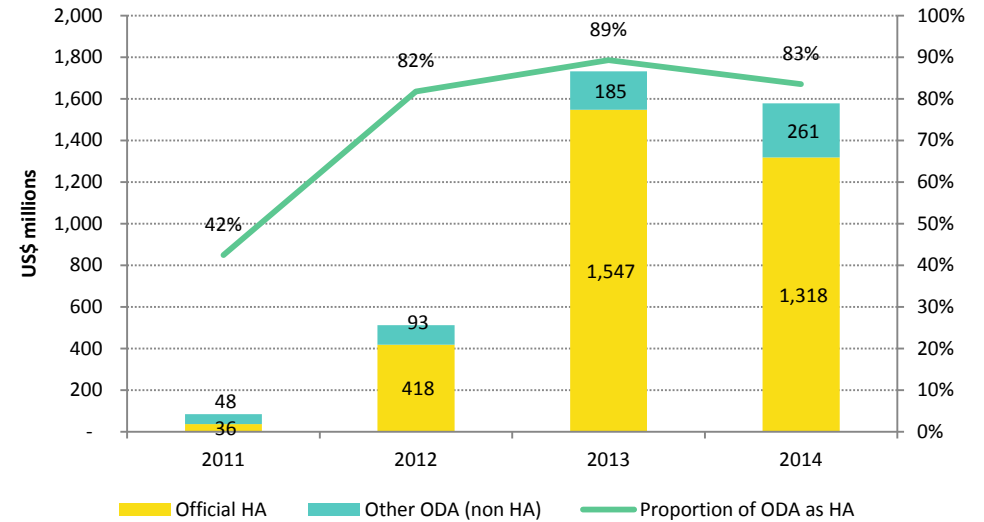
Source: Development Initiatives based on UNOCHA FTS. Downloaded 26 January 2016.

8. Official development assistance (ODA) to Syria (historic)

ODA has grown each year since the beginning of the emergency, mainly driven by the increase in official humanitarian assistance to the country. In 2011 humanitarian assistance accounted for 42% of total ODA and by 2013 it accounted for over 80% of ODA.

While ODA has been dominated by humanitarian assistance there has also been a year on year increase in other ODA in the form of development assistanceⁱⁱ. Development assistance funding within ODA increased from US\$48 million in 2011 to US\$261 million in 2014.

Figure 9: ODA to Syria, 2011–2014



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC.

Data is correct at time of writing and subject to change. For up-to-date figures on the humanitarian response to Syria and other crises see UN OCHA's [Financial Tracking Service](#).

Authors: Dan Sparks

Contact: gha@devinit.org

Web: www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org

ⁱ Because of the time of year, 2015 data may be subject to retrospective amends. This data in this briefing comes from downloads on 26 January 2016.

ⁱⁱ Development assistance is ODA minus any funding reported to humanitarian assistance. It includes sustainable and poverty-reducing development assistance (for sectors such as governance and security, social services, education, health, and water and sanitation) from OECD DAC members and other donors reporting to the OECD DAC.