

Originator: ACT Jordan Syria and Lebanon Forum

ACT Alliance public statement on solidarity and humanitarian support for Syria

The Syria Crisis has had a devastating humanitarian, social and economic impact on Syria and neighbouring countries for eight years now. People affected by this crisis require a strong commitment and collective effort by the international humanitarian community to help those in need.

The severity and complexity of the humanitarian situation across Syria continues to be overwhelming with 3.1 million people in direct need of humanitarian assistance. Although refugee registration activities ceased in 2015, it is estimated that Lebanon and Jordan host 1.6 million refugees where harsh living conditions have forced these people into poverty and consequently made them extremely vulnerable.¹ The regional dynamics have significantly evolved in 2018, maintaining the scale of humanitarian needs.

Before the crisis began, **ACT Alliance** members, local and international, had a presence on the ground in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, allowing members to react swiftly to humanitarian needs as they developed. ACT members continue giving humanitarian assistance both in Syria and in the surrounding countries. The valuable placement of ACT members and their partners in Syria in particular allows for the unique opportunity to respond quickly as a locally rooted yet globally connected alliance.

Calls to Action:

- **We call on the international community for stronger solidarity and humanitarian support to Syrian refugees and Internally Displaced Persons inside Syria.** Although the protracted humanitarian crisis continues inside Syria and neighbouring countries, year by year the local and international humanitarian actors are faced with a steady decline in funding for responding to the basic needs of millions of affected people. The ACT Syria Appeal is being severely underfunded with only 20% funds received for 2018. This and other regional appeals for refugee response, particularly in the host countries, where ACT members and their partners operate, must see an increase in required contributions to be able to effectively respond to humanitarian needs that remain at an alarming level.
- While acknowledging that the need for emergency basic needs in Syria is still great, **ACT Alliance members, national partners and communities strive and call for an earliest possible shift where circumstances allow to interventions that ensure the dignity of those affected by the conflict and to decrease aid dependency in Syria and within those countries supporting Syrian refugees.** Local and international ACT members pledge to continue to work with local and national partners to respond to emergency needs in a sustainable manner, aiming for multi-year programming to allow Syrians to seamlessly move from emergency to recovery while building their resilience.

¹ https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

The ACT Jordan Syria and Lebanon Forum members and partners working in the region, and in particular those working inside Syria, have the added value of working as first responders in hard-to-reach areas. ACT members & partners work with local faith and non-faith actors who hold strong connections to our Christian faith values and overall humanitarian standards. Therefore, continuing our involvement and commitment to lend help to all people in need has become not only a social duty but also a responsibility towards our valuable and timely contribution to peace building and restoring the social cohesion of diverse societies of the Middle East throughout all our Humanitarian work.