



EUROPEAN UNION



The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis

الصندوق الاستئماني الأوروبي 'مدد'

## Project Factsheet

### Strengthening safety nets in Lebanon

### to support the most vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees

#### OBJECTIVES

Increase the resilience of the most economically vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees in Lebanon by:

- Providing direct assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees.
- Providing technical assistance to build and strengthen national social assistance systems in implementing safety nets.

#### BUDGET

EUR 151.2 million

#### START DATE

13/02/2019

#### DURATION

36 months

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

- Reduction of negative coping strategies of vulnerable beneficiary households.
- Improved capacity of relevant government agencies to implement the NPTP at the central and local levels and develop shock-responsive social assistance system.

#### BENEFICIARIES

>500,000

vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees in Lebanon

(jointly with other donors)

#### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER



World Food Programme

## PROJECT LOCATIONS



LEBANON

## OUR IMPACT



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Riad, 42, his wife Thourayya and their seven children are from Raqqa, in Syria. Riad used to work in construction in Lebanon until he fell from a three-story building in 2013. He had to cross the border and seek medical treatment, (with no other option than) leaving his family behind.

When Daesh arrived in their hometown, one year later, their situation deteriorated dramatically. **“Every day was worse than the previous one. Daesh confined us in our homes and locked us inside; we couldn’t even go out to buy some bread,”** says Thourayya. **“We had to cover ourselves up [...] and we could go out for five minutes and come back, to bring food. [...] This was the situation until the war started for real and the aviation was above us, so we ran away.”**

Once the bombing started, Thourayya, who had had her baby just a month and a half before and had not yet recovered from her C-section, decided it was time to leave: she took her children and attempted to flee by boat. Unfortunately, in the middle of the journey, they were asked to get off the boat and to continue on their own. **“We kept on walking and walking until we got to safety. But we were exhausted, we thought we were going to die.”** she continues. She had to carry all her

children, terrified for their lives and asking herself if they were going to survive. It took them almost four days to cross the mountains and join Riad.

Their family has been living in a tent in a camp in Bar Elias, Lebanon for the past three years, but their situation is still very tough: besides their inability to pay their debts, they cannot afford to buy clothes and can barely afford any food. Work is tough to come by, especially considering the fact that Riad cannot work as his spine was damaged during the fall. One of their children is disabled and needs medical attention, and their daughters’ 8 hours of work on potato fields only allows them to get 4 USD a day, which is not enough.

Their life is barely sustainable but they hope the situation in Syria will get back to normal. **“Safety is the most important thing now,”** says Thourayya. **“We just hope for the country to be safe again so we can go back,”** continues Riad.

Riad and his family have now access to direct assistance offered by the World Food Programme, but it’s not enough. Even if the children could get access to education, Riad and Thourayya decided to keep them at home instead: **“We can’t let them go to school in these conditions, they would be humiliated. They would get jealous of their peers if they saw them wearing nice clothes while they are not, and it would cause them more harm than good, so it is better if they just stay home,”** explains Thourayya.

With the support of the EU Trust Fund, the World Food Programme (WFP) is tackling situations like this and offer direct assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees, while providing technical assistance to support national systems in implementing safety nets.