

PRESS RELEASE

5 Years of Civil War in Syria

Welthungerhilfe: We have to end the people's suffering

Bonn, January 21, 2016. Welthungerhilfe, together with more than 100 international aid organisations, is calling for an end of the people's suffering in Syria. An urgent appeal is sent out to all involved warring parties to ensure access to humanitarian aid, to stop the shelling of hospitals and schools and to immediately end the siege of cities. Since the beginning of the war, five years ago, life expectancy in Syria has decreased by 13 years, and one in two Syrians is dependent on food aid.

„As long as there is no political solution to this war, we need to massively increase the humanitarian aid and provide financing on a long-term basis. We must not repeat the error that the United Nations will have to reduce the daily diets for refugees due to a lack of money“, claims Bärbel Dieckmann, President of Welthungerhilfe. Until today, pledges to United Nations' humanitarian aid appeals in 2015 have been paid to only almost 60 per cent.

Welthungerhilfe demands more money for the education of children in the neighbouring countries must be made available. “Often, children cannot attend classes, because there is no money for bus transport. We must not allow the rise of a lost generation“, says Dieckmann. Concurrently, refugees in the neighbouring countries must have a chance to generate a legal income.

With *#SyriaCrisis*, the signing aid organisations call upon citizens worldwide to raise their voice for an end of the Syrian people's suffering after more than five years.

Further information on our website: <http://www.welthungerhilfe.de/en/syria-refugees.html>

Welthungerhilfe has been providing humanitarian aid for Syrian civil war victims since November 2012. Initially, this happened within Syria, but facing the rising numbers of refugees moving to Turkey and northern Iraq, the organisation became active in these countries, too. Since summer 2014, the country office in Gaziantep/Turkey has been coordinating the support of civil war victims and displaced people in that region.

Welthungerhilfe is one of the biggest private aid organisations in Germany. It provides aid from a single source: from fast disaster relief and reconstruction to long-term development cooperation projects with local partner organisations, according to the principle of help for self-help. Since its foundation in 1962, more than 7,733 projects in 70 countries have been supported with 2.84 billion Euro – for a world without hunger and poverty.

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