

Potential areas of US political and operational support on international migration and refugee crisis

Key priorities:

- Increase humanitarian funding through the UN system and other international organisations, specifically targeting Iraq, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen;
- Provide additional resilience funding beyond humanitarian aid, to the international organisations and third countries of first asylum notably Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey;
- Reach out to the Third countries, notably the Gulf countries and other potential donors with a view of increasing funding to the countries neighbouring Syria;
- Provide capacity-building (training, technical equipment) for transit countries, notably in Western Balkans, for border management and processing of migrants.
- Support to EUNAVFORMED through an effective liaison between EUNAVFORMED and Frontex on the one hand and US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean on the other hand.

Other areas where US support is sought

A. Political support

- Intensify diplomatic engagement with all relevant international partners to reach an UN-led political solution to the conflict in Syria, leading to political transition.
- Reach out to the Third countries, notably countries in the region around Syria as well as Gulf countries with a view of significantly increasing the number of countries resettling Syrian refugees and increasing the numbers of accepted refugees;

- Jointly mobilise international attention to the migration and refugee crisis, including through making full use of the upcoming high level events, including the Valletta Summit, G7 and G20 Summit;
- Advocacy with all parties to the conflict for the respect of International Humanitarian Law, humanitarian access in hard-to-reach and conflict-affected areas, and access to safety for civilians fleeing the fighting;

B. Operational support

B.1. State Department, USAID and other relevant institutions

- Increase the number of Syrian refugees to be resettled among the US global refugee quota in 2016 and 2017.
- Cooperation in the UNHCR to coordinate our resettlement pledges and their implementation.
- Increase funding through the UN system and other international organisations, to close the funding gap in humanitarian appeals by the UN, notably for Iraq, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen;
- Support to refugees and host communities, notably in **Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon**, by strengthening protection i.e. providing winter shelter and supplies, improving conditions/services in the camps and settlements and enhancing their security.
- Provide additional resilience funding beyond humanitarian aid, to the international organisations and countries of first asylum notably **Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey**, to provide opportunities for refugees and IDPs to pursue livelihoods, access to education and the labour market, become more self-sufficient and facilitate their social integration;
- To this end, invite US contributions either bilaterally or through the **EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad Fund'**;

- Joint efforts in programming innovative aid modalities and increase sustainability of cash assistance programmes, including considering cash as a modality for food assistance;
- Invite US complementary support to the priorities agreed in the EU-**Turkey** Action Plan on migration and refugee crisis, including on humanitarian assistance and strengthening of migration management strategy and system;
- Joint EU-US advocacy efforts vis-à-vis **Jordan, Lebanon** and Turkey to improve status of refugees and ensure their equal access to shelter, education, health and livelihoods, ease the administrative burdens for refugees as well as for humanitarian agencies.
- In **Lebanon**, joint advocacy towards the authorities for the application of broader exceptional humanitarian criteria and processing.
- In **Jordan**, joint advocacy towards:
 - UNHCR to **accelerate the processing time of requests for refugee status.**
 - **Jordanian authorities** to allow access to refugees stranded at the border with Syria and to allow humanitarian organizations to provide assistance.
- Provide needs-based humanitarian assistance and protection for all affected civilians inside **Iraq**, in full respect of humanitarian principles.
- Welcome the continued US involvement in the deployment of resources at Europol and the cooperation with JOT MARE.
- Welcome US experience sharing on channelling remittances and transferring money to countries of origin/transit.
- Welcome US experience sharing in addressing criminal activities occurring through social networks.
- Possible complementary support in the implementation of tailor made packages to be agreed within the High Level Dialogues on migration with Third countries.

- Invite enhanced US funding on push-factors in Africa, either bilaterally or through contribution to the **EU Emergency Trust Fund on Africa**;
- Invite the US to provide support for the resettlement of Somalis;
- Provide expertise and capacity-building in strengthening borders and the reception and registration capacities of transit countries, notably in **Western Balkans**, and in providing immediate assistance to refugees;
- Provide assistance to further strengthen international cooperation on migrant smuggling.

B.2. Department of Defence

- Build an effective liaison between EUNAVFORMED and Frontex on the one hand and US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean on the other hand:
 - by creating interaction between the EUNAVFORMED OHQ, the International Coordination Centre for the Frontex coordinated joint operation Triton and the Command of the Sixth Fleet to exchange relevant operational and tactical information;
 - sharing of relevant US intelligence information on smuggler business model/networks and the situation on the Libyan coast, relevant satellite images and other GEOINT information.
- US direct or indirect support to **Libya**, e.g. through US programmes in support of the Coast Guard in Libya, contribution to the Italian-led assistance mission in Libya, counter-radicalisation efforts, border management (in relation to both south border as well as the sea border), management of irregular migration through and from Libya;
- US assistance to countries of origin and transit, e.g. through local cooperation in Malta and Tunis on US activities on border management programs in **Tunisia**, cooperation between EUCAP Sahel Niger and the US in the area of Agadez (e.g. information sharing on the US activities related to EUCAP's mandate; potential logistical/MEDEVAC support);

- US support to strengthen the **Lebanese** Armed Forces in line with its five-year capabilities development plan, particularly on border management capacities.
- Complementary support to **Turkey**, in line with the EU-Turkey Action plan on refugees and migration management for the strengthening of the interception capacity of the Turkish Coast guard and strengthening of capacity of Turkey to combat migrant smuggling.
- US programmes in support of **Niger** and **Mali** (including equipment) to help the countries control the north of their territory;
- Advocacy by DoD to national defence departments for the promotion of International Humanitarian Law and the protection of civilians.
- Establish VTCs between the EEAS and US DoS if and when appropriate in order to follow-up to the mentioned strands and discuss concrete areas of cooperation, including potential US participation in the CSDP missions in the region.