



Geneva, 14 November 2016

Ref. 413\673

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and has the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the pillars on which are based the Kingdom's humanitarian assistance and efforts in supporting refugees.

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees the assurances of its highest consideration.



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
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## Pillars of the Kingdom humanitarian assistance and efforts to supporting refugees

1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deals with the cause of refugees upon the basis of Islamic principles that call for love and peace and oblige to rescue persons in distress, to help those in need and to preserve life, dignity and health of mankind without any racial or religious discrimination.
2. His Majesty King Abdul Aziz – May God bless his soul – has set the foundations of humanitarian work in the Kingdom on the basis of religious precepts and Arab authentic morality at a time when possibilities were limited. In 1950, the Kingdom delivered its first humanitarian aid with an amount of US\$ 100.000 to the Punjab, hit then by a destructive flooding.
3. Historically, the Kingdom has a good background in dealing with refugee crisis. It played a great humanitarian role in providing protection and care for Iraqi refugees during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, spending more than US\$ 1billion (4 billion riyal) to set up Rafah camp in order to provide Iraqi refugees with a safe haven, take care of them and meet their needs.
4. The Kingdom is among the leading countries in the world that has been delivering generous aids to refugees since its creation. It provided material support international humanitarian organizations and responded to the UN humanitarian appeals in many areas. It also Kingdom hosted a large number of refugees, starting with Birmanis, Palestinians and Iraqis to Syrians, Yemenis and others that it provided with livelihoods and helped them to develop self-reliance, to integrate into society, to work freely and benefit from education and health services, and allowed them to bring their families, under the established rules in the Kingdom.
5. The humanitarian aid delivered by the Kingdom during the last four decades amounted to US \$ 139 billion, making it the worldwide leading provider of official development aid up to 1.9% of its gross national income, exceeding the UN targeted percentage of 0.7% (according to the UNDP report issued in 2016), and that benefited more than 95 countries. The Kingdom also became the fourth donor among the group of donor countries in the world.
6. The establishment of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre in May 2015 to be as a tool for the Kingdom to provide relief and humanitarian assistance to the countries in need.





7. The refugee crisis that is hitting several regions in the world because of wars, ethnic and religious conflicts and natural disasters has increased the number of refugees to exceed 65 million refugees, which requires harmonisation and intensification of efforts for dealing with such a crisis and limiting its negative impact on mankind. (There is only 9% of refugees in large countries and 50% in developing and poor countries).
8. Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, the Kingdom has been in the vanguard of the States supporting the Syrian people to alleviating their humanitarian suffering. Thereupon the Kingdom hosted around two and a half million of Syrian citizens and was keen to treat them differently than refugees and would not gather them in refugee camps for their dignity and their safety. It also gave them full freedom of movement and allowed them to enter the labour market and to benefit from free health care and education; so, the number of Syrian students exceeds 141.000 students. The Kingdom also contributed through supporting and taking care of millions of Syrian refugees in their neighbouring countries. Those efforts included the providing of humanitarian assistance in coordination with the governments of their host countries and the international humanitarian relief organizations, through financial or in-kind support. This assistance has exceeded US \$ 800 million, in addition to the voluntary assistance provided by Saudi people in several occasions. Also, the Kingdom announced on 5 October 2016 that it has taken charge of the care of 150 Syrian children inside Aleppo and their transferring to the border hospitals in Turkey or to Saudi Arabia.
9. The Kingdom also considered as visitors the Yemeni brothers who sought refuge in the Saudi Arabia and made it much easier for more than half a million Yemenis, including freedom of movement, work and bringing their families. Thereupon, the number of Yemeni students attending higher education free of charge in Saudi Arabia has reached 285 students. The value of aid provided recently by the Kingdom to the Yemeni refugees in Djibouti and Somalia has exceeded US \$ 42 million. In response to the humanitarian relief needs of the brotherly Yemeni people, the Kingdom provided around US \$ 500 million.
10. With regard to refugees in other countries, the Kingdom provided, in February 2016, a support amounting to US \$ 59 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which led the amount of the Saudi support provided to the UNRWA since its creation to a total of US \$ 500 million. The Kingdom commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghani refugees in Pakistan reached US \$ 30 million, in addition to the Kingdom pledge to provide an amount of US \$50 million to the Indonesian government for supporting Rohingya refugees in Indonesia.



11. During the summit of President Barack Obama on refugees, held in September 2016 on the margins of the 71<sup>st</sup> session of General Assembly, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior announced that the Kingdom was committed to provide an additional aid amounting to US \$ 75 million for supporting refugees, in coordination with international organizations.
12. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the first and fundamental step in dealing with those crises is to intensify efforts to resolve the existing worldwide conflicts according to the UN Charter and through the use of preventive diplomacy to avert the further exacerbation of crises and to avoid them becoming military conflicts that will lead to humanitarian crises and disasters.
13. The Kingdom will spare no effort to continue to work with international organizations and States that believe that collective effort is the best way to achieve international peace and security as well as the welfare of humanity.
14. The Kingdom is continuing to play its humanitarian, political and economic role with a sense of responsibility, moderation and fairness, which are notions that constitute the solid axes for the international work of the Kingdom.

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