

# PRESS RELEASE



## **6th anniversary of war in Syria** **Welthungerhilfe: “We must not get used to the suffering”**

**Bonn, 14.03.2017.** Welthungerhilfe is warning against accepting the war in Syria and the suffering of the civilian population as a normal state of affairs and an inevitability. After six years of war, almost 14 million people are dependent on humanitarian assistance and around 7 million are unable to feed themselves.

“We must not allow ourselves to become used to the suffering. The fact that there is a fragile ceasefire on the ground doesn't mean that the population has clean water or enough to eat, or that children can go to school again. Bombs are no longer falling but our local partners in Aleppo report that food, water and medical provision are still very scarce. We must not abandon the Syrian people, even if the complex political and military situation in the country makes a stable peace process difficult,” stresses Bärbel Dieckmann, president of Welthungerhilfe.

The United Nations' humanitarian measures for the current year are still under-financed. To date, the international community has transferred just three percent of the required 3.4 billion euros.

For the last four years Welthungerhilfe has been supporting people in need in Syria, as well as families who have fled to the neighbouring countries of Turkey and Lebanon. In 2016, Welthungerhilfe provided aid supplies for around 500,000 people in these countries.

Further information at [www.welthungerhilfe.de/press/6-years-war-in-syria](http://www.welthungerhilfe.de/press/6-years-war-in-syria) and [www.welthungerhilfe.de](http://www.welthungerhilfe.de)

***Welthungerhilfe** is one of the largest private aid organisations in Germany. It provides aid from a single source: From rapid disaster relief to reconstruction and long-term development cooperation projects with local partner organisations based on the principle of help for self-help. Since its establishment in 1962, more than 8,120 overseas projects in 70 countries have been supported with 3.033 billion euros - for a world without hunger and poverty.*

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