



THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF  
**SAUDI ARABIA**  
WASHINGTON, DC

## **Fact Sheet: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Leading Partner in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been a leading partner in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS from the outset. In line with this, the Kingdom contributed \$100 Million to the Coalition's stabilization efforts in Syria. This contribution represents a continuation of its leading and regional stabilizing role to ensure ISIS is defeated in all of its dimensions.

- **Coalition Founder:** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a founding partner of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. It hosted the first foundational meeting of the Coalition in Jeddah in September 2014, and stressed from the beginning that a successful campaign would require military, humanitarian, and ideological components.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** the Kingdom has since played a leading role in all of these spheres. It is the co-lead of the Counter Finance Working Group and a key member of the Communications and Stabilization Working Groups. Even before the Coalition was formed, the Kingdom provided \$500 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraqis fleeing ISIS in the darkest hours.
- **Syrian (Refugees) Residents:** Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, the Kingdom has received over 2 million Syrian citizens fleeing the war. The Kingdom treated them as legal residents, as opposed to refugees, which enabled them to have access to public schools, hospitals, universities, and job opportunities. Over 400,000 Syrians remain in the Kingdom. The Kingdom has also allowed the renewal of the legal residence status of Syrians until the situation in Syria is resolved. It has also facilitated their entry and provided visas for family members of Syrians who reside in the Kingdom. The King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid (KSRelief) is one of the largest contributors of humanitarian assistance for the Syrian people, with nearly \$1 billion contributed to date.
- **Ideological Sphere:** the Kingdom has pioneered efforts to counter the false ideology of ISIS through the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology (Etidal), inaugurated during President Trump's visit to Riyadh in 2017. Etidal now serves as an essential platform to counter ISIS's messaging and ideology, with other partner centers.
- **Militarily:** the Kingdom flew the first air missions over Syria against ISIS targets in September 2014. The Royal Saudi Air Force struck designated ISIS targets with



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accuracy and precision and has continued to support the air campaign robustly ever since, flying the second highest number of missions after the US.

- **Iraq Reconstruction:** Saudi Arabia is also a leading contributor to Iraq's recovery from ISIS. This includes \$1.5 billion in financial and reconstruction support pledged at the Iraq Reconstruction Conference hosted by Kuwait in February 2018. Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman spearheaded diplomatic openings with Iraq, including the re-opening the Ar'ar border crossing, resuming direct air flights, supporting Iraq's energy needs, and restoring mutually beneficial commercial and trade links.
- **Cooperative Efforts:** Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud inaugurated the joint Saudi-Iraq high level Coordination Council with Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi and the U.S. Secretary of State in October 2017.