

Syria 10 years Situation Report

World Vision Syria Response | 8 March 2021

Our **US\$37.5 million response** aims to reach **3.29 million people**, including **1.7 million children** over the next three years.

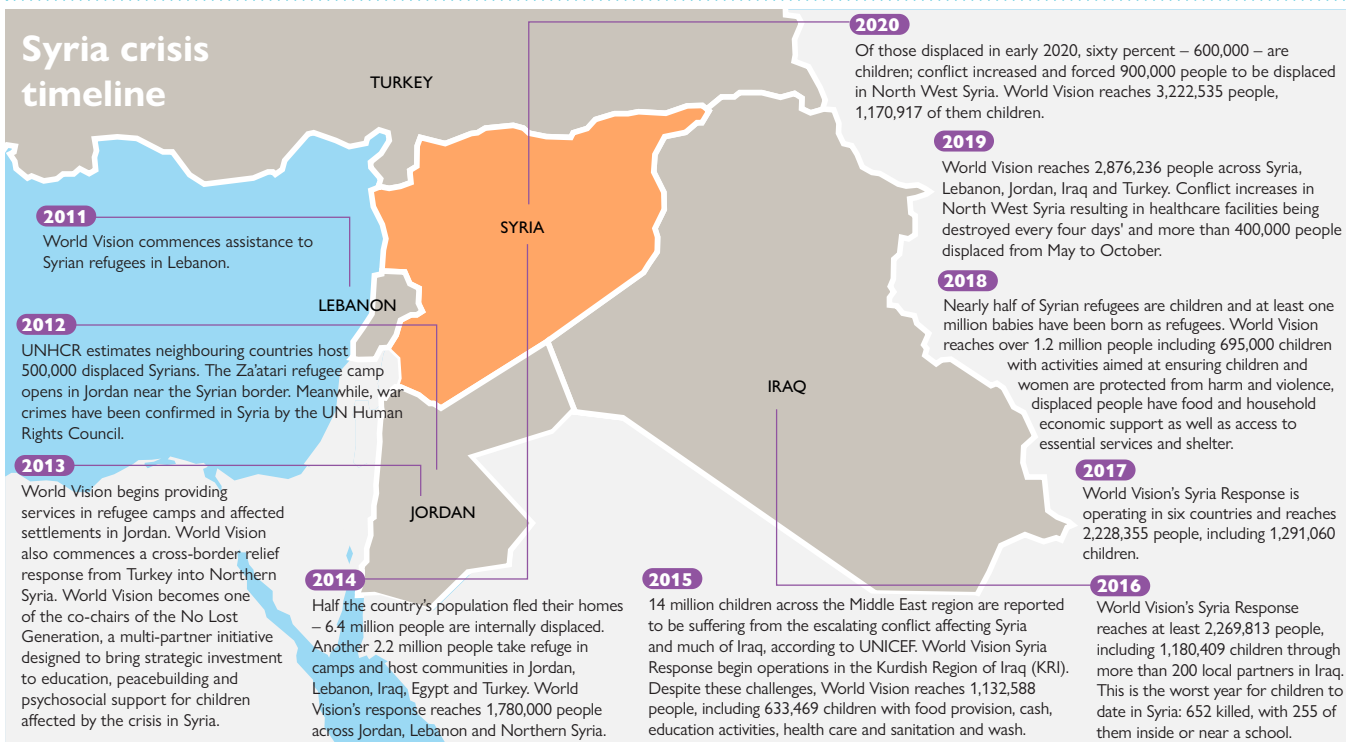
Since the Syria conflict started ten years ago, World Vision managed **US\$319 million** with the support of **thirty-five donors and private sponsors** across the three countries we operate in – **Jordan, Syria and Turkey.**



During the decade long conflict World Vision Syria Response reached

7,141,118 Syrian men, women, girls and boys across Jordan, Syria and Turkey.

Women 1,841,784
Men 1,234,904
Boys 1,956,225
Girls 2,108,205



Updates: Key findings from the Syria10 report

US\$ 1.2 trillion

The cumulative economic cost of conflict in Syria after 10 years is estimated to be over **US\$ 1.2 trillion**, which almost equals the European Union's budget over a decade

Even if the war stopped today, the cumulative economic cost will continue to be paid to the tune of an additional **US\$1.4 trillion** in today's money through to 2035

US\$ 1.4 trillion

US\$ 1.7 trillion

Factoring in the negative impacts on children's health and education brings the additional cost up to **US\$1.7 trillion.**

Over the last 10 years, cumulative humanitarian aid to Syria has been a mere portion of the cost of war - **US\$19.4 billion** - just **1.6 per cent of US\$1.2 trillion.** It is clear that life-saving aid alone cannot be the solution

Life expectancy reduced by 13 years

The conflict in Syria is one of the deadliest for children and the most destructive in comparison with other protracted crises. A Syrian child's overall **life expectancy** has been reduced by **13 years.** Enrolment in primary and secondary school has dropped by 21 and 28 percentage points, respectively⁵.

1.6 per cent

World Vision also continued providing assistance to Syrian refugees in Iraq and Lebanon where we reached cumulatively **5,630,601** people.



11.1 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria; 4.8 million of them are children and 2.5 million displaced children



In Syria, there are **6.1 million people displaced** from their homes



19.8 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries are in need of humanitarian assistance (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey); **5.9 million of them are Syrian refugee children.**

Situational overview for Northwest Syria, Jordan and Turkey

SYRIA:



10 years in, conflict continues to wreak havoc across the whole of Syria with civilians suffering from extreme levels of insecurity and indiscriminate attacks.¹ Crime, safety, and deteriorating socio-economic conditions further contribute to the growing death toll, which has reached an estimated 600,000 people. Airstrikes, artillery shelling, localized fights, and improvised explosive devices continue to threaten everyone, especially children who pay the highest price. Reaching them and the most vulnerable populations remains a challenge as humanitarian access further restricts aid delivery to all those who are in dire need of assistance. These obstacles are not limited to the physical constraints, such as risks from conflict activities or environmental hazards. They are further complicated by international sanctions, financial restrictions and requirements by local authorities.

COVID-19 has added another layer of vulnerabilities to Syrian children and their families, and the Syrian population is on the brink of collapse into the worst food insecurity crisis so far as people lost employment and income generation activities – 1.3 million are already food insecure and 1.8 more at high risk, according to World Food Program. This has a crippling effect on children's ability to continue education and learning, leading to an increase in child labour and forced early marriage incidents as parents and caregivers see no other option. But the real solution is in the hands of those who have the power to stop the fighting and end the violence against girls, boys, men and women.

JORDAN:



Jordan remains the second largest refugee hosting country in the region. Since the war broke out inside Syria, Jordan welcomed a large number of Syrians fleeing for a safe haven. Until end of last year, 633,314 registered Syrian refugees² were estimated to be living in one of Jordan's camps or in the communities (81% are living in the host communities). However, the real total of Syrians is believed to be around the total number of 1,300,000, including those not registered.³ Half of them are reported to be children.⁴

The Syrian refugee crisis has exacerbated the political, social, economic, and resource challenges in the country. As the protracted conflict in Syria reaches a 10 year milestone, and COVID-19 secondary effects destabilize the country, poverty levels are increase by around 38 percentage points (p.p.) among Jordanians, and by 18 p.p. among Syrian refugees, noting that refugees started off at a higher rate of poverty at baseline.⁵ Syrian refugee children are also affected experiencing higher levels of stress, sadness and isolation due to inability to attend formal or informal education - only 25% are enrolled in secondary school, which is 47% lower than Jordanian children.⁶ The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 has increased reliance on negative coping mechanisms, compounded by limited livelihood options and access to social protection, despite modest increases in cash assistance supporting Syrian refugees. Children have been adversely impacted by the pandemic as an estimated 8 out of 10 families have been forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms that include child labor.⁷

TURKEY:



Turkey remains the largest refugee hosting country in the world with 3,643,769 Syrian refugees estimated to be living in the country⁸; 1.6 million are reported to be registered Syrian children. The actual numbers of Syrian refugees are much higher and those without a Temporary Protection Identification are the most marginalised and with limited or no access to basic care. After ten years since the first group of 252 Syrian refugees reached Turkey⁹, the response to the refugee crisis has shifted from a moral responsibility to strengthened borders and increased controls. This also meant that countless Syrians were unable to cross and had to stay in makeshift camps, after the visa-free policy for Syrians was halted in 2016.¹⁰

Although Turkey has done a remarkable job in hosting refugees, the political climate in Europe and in country, the economic situation as well as the continued numbers of refugees seeking safety in the country, has increased tensions at community level have negative public perceptions towards refugees have grown significantly. This has led to several measures taken over past years including relocations to the Turkish provinces of first registration.¹¹ Meanwhile, the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the whole of Syria response has resulted in 2,734,836 confirmed cases with Turkey being the most affected accounting for almost 80% of all reported cases in the region.¹² Those still living in camps close to the Syrian border are at risk of catching the virus and with limited access to medical care to prevent, treat and contain the virus amongst this vulnerable population.



Photo: World Vision, Jordan, 2013.

“I miss my friends and the dresses and dolls I left behind in Syria,” says 8-year-old Maysoun*. She is bullied at school as she is the only Syrian pupil there. She has to give classmates her pencils before they agree to play with her. Maysoun's family fled their country after their home was destroyed and rented an apartment in Ma'an city, southern Jordan. None of the parents can work due to disabilities caused by their work in Syria. The family is beset by health problems and cannot afford treatment. The family lives in a small apartment and all they dream of, is the day they would be able to return home.



Photo: The International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC), Turkey, 2021.

12-year-old Haya* was only five years old when her family fled Syria and migrated to Turkey. She expresses her yearning desire to see her grandmother. *“My grandmother lives in Finland. We sometimes speak on the phone but she cries each time. We also cry when we see her like that”* says Haya in a sighing manner. *“We used to be altogether but now we have fallen apart from each other”*. Haya struggles with anxiety problems due to the challenges she faces with integration in the local community and unfriendly attitudes of her peers in the school.

COVID-19 response overview

 **People reached 846,516 including  473,667 children**

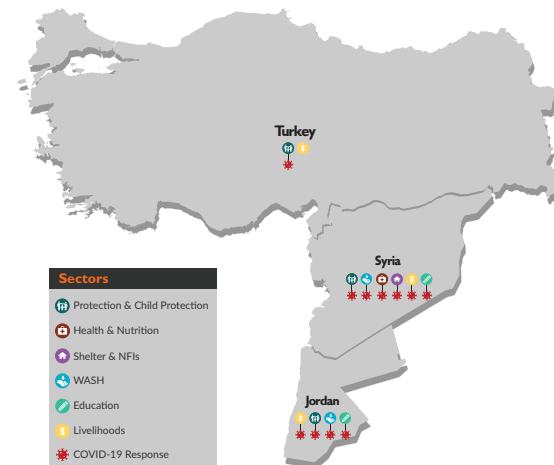


The rapid worldwide spread of the COVID-19, an illness caused by a new strain of highly infectious corona virus, has severely affected health and economic systems in many countries. The financial and health impacts of communities already impacted by the Syria crisis are devastating, particularly for those living in displacement/refugee camps and collective shelters in areas with limited healthcare. With the overarching goal to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact on vulnerable children and families in Syria, Turkey, and Jordan, World Vision Syria Response developed a holistic program framework to respond the emerging needs of pandemic.

COVID-19 response has been mainstreamed throughout all World Vision Syria Response programming based on a review of ongoing projects and intentionally reflecting recurrent needs gradually encountered in new project interventions. Since March, 2020 the approach has been threefold to ensure quality support in fast changing environments through:

- **scaling up preventive measures to limit the spread of disease;**
- **strengthening health systems and workers;**
- **supporting children impacted by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food and livelihoods.**

Community awareness on key actions and behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 through increased community massaging has become the integral part of every project. The extensive work been provided with health facilities through awareness raising, improvement of physical



environment and provision of Infection, Prevention and Control items, Personal Protective Equipment, and waste management materials as well as establishment of isolation spaces and intensive care units. Social protection measures and economic support through project interventions are aimed to alleviate the economic impact of COVID 19 on the most vulnerable children and their families allowing them to meet their survival needs.

World Vision Syria Response fully mobilized its resources to advocate on the impact of COVID-19 children affected by conflict and displacement in Syria, Jordan and Turkey through strong media engagement and increased advocacy influence at all levels in in relevant fora.

Child story from Northwest Syria

Yaman*, 12, lives with his family and is displaced in Northwest Syria due to the conflict. **“My boy was out playing when an airplane unloaded its explosives close to the playground. I rushed to him as soon as I heard the blast, he was screaming loudly. I put his hands on his ears, held him and took him back home,”** says his mother, Sameera*. This incident happened four years ago and it only left Yaman with so much to struggle with. Even after these years, he did not play with other children, refused to leave the house – except rarely – and did not want to go to school. Yaman became silent, afraid of any loud sound or voice, not to mention, his bad temper and anxiety.

“I had no idea how to deal with my child. He bit his nails whenever I said ‘no’ to something he really wanted. His eyesight became weak because he spent a lot of time using the cell phone, so we had to get him lens implants. Yaman has to wear glasses permanently now,” his mother talks about her struggles with her son.

The 12-year-old boy enrolled in World Vision partner’s Child-friendly Space (CFS) and started attending Psychosocial Support (PSS) sessions. Several sessions later, Yaman slowly started to interact with the children around him. He was able to smile again. He was encouraged to make decisions on his own, his personality started to improve as if he was building a new character. Whenever he visits the case management room, he sits with confidence and holds his head high.

Yaman was also referred to a private teacher so he could be taught the basic principles of reading and writing at a very nominal fee, and an average of four sessions per week. As soon as the sessions began, he was responsive with the teacher. Additionally, Sameera was trained on the star chart in order to help further improve her son’s behaviour inside the house. A star is placed on the chart when Yaman behaves and a cross mark when he misbehaves.

“I could see Yaman’s spirit burning with enthusiasm and excitement every time he had a session at the centre. I cannot express how happy I am with this improvement. I hope he keeps moving forward like this and becomes one of the best and smartest children,” his mother concludes.



Photo: Syria Relief & Development (SRD), 2020.

Response highlights



STRATEGIC GOAL

By 2023, contribute to the improved well-being of 1,700,000 girls and boys affected by the Syria refugee crisis, by addressing their humanitarian needs and promoting and protecting their rights.



153,400

people reached in 2020 with standard, remedial and catchup, education classes



208,821

Syrian people were provided with child protection interventions



2,154,637

Syrian people were reached out with clean water provision, waste disposal, and hygiene promotion efforts



456,604

Syrian people were provided with emergency basic health care services



263,624

Syrian people reached with basic emergency shelter materials including tents, blankets, and winterization kits

Strategic Objective 1: Protect the most vulnerable girls, boys, women, men; and create an empowering environment for all, regardless of gender, ability or social status.



12,842

Syrian people inside the country were reached through raising awareness sessions to increase knowledge of child protection risks and needs



10,886

Syrian girls and boys were provided with Psychosocial support sessions



5,418

consultation sessions were provided to survivors of gender-based violence



2,718

women and girls inside Syria were provided with vocational training

Strategic Objective 2: Assure access to appropriate, resilient water and sanitation facilities.



1,671,152

people were provided with critical clean water in Northern Syria through water trucking and support of pumping stations and distribution networks. The water quality was monitored to ensure water quality standards



41,535

Syrians refugees in camps in Jordan had Solid Waste Management services, including the collection, sorting and disposal of waste. Solid waste services were provided through a cash for work program that provided refugees with employment opportunities



269,445

Syrian people received hygiene and covid-19 supply kits and other hygiene promotion activities to reduce the spread and risk of diseases



1,101,795

Syrian people benefited from solid waste removal via regular waste collection, provision of garbage containers, and proper disposal in authorized sites

Response highlights

Strategic Objective 3: Improve most vulnerable household economic resilience through income generation and cash assistance.



57,431
beneficiaries were provided with cash assistance



1,183
youth were supported with livelihoods planning

Strategic Objective 4: Ensure girls and boys access to education opportunities.



871
children were supported with remedial education in Syria



1,270
Syrian refugee children in Jordan were provided with life skills and education



2,931
Syrian refugee children attended Kindergarten (Early Childhood Development)



484
Syrian teachers were trained

Strategic Objective 5: Support partners to provide critical, lifesaving health and nutrition services for vulnerable communities.



123,030
individuals received at least one primary health consultation in Syria and 35,531 individuals were reached via mobile medical clinics



16,291
people were reached with risk mitigation behavior messages to prevent the spread of COVID-19



988
weekly dialysis sessions for individuals with kidney trouble were provided



3,876
babies were delivered

Humanitarian advocacy

The World Vision Syria Response has been piloting and integrating WV approaches to fragility and emergency contexts including research and advocacy on child marriage and adaptation of integrated child protection, peacebuilding, and psychosocial programs for refugees. WV centralises advocacy and external engagement to work towards international and national policies and decisions that improve child protection inside Syria and refugee hosting countries, as well as expand humanitarian space inside Syria. As a co-chair of the No Lost Generation Initiative we are combining our advocacy efforts with the humanitarian community of NGOs, donors, and UN agencies working in Syria and in refugee hosting countries to strengthen child protection, education and access to livelihoods for youth. Specifically, via this platform, WVSR aims to increase its influence on the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan and invest in donor engagement to support fundraising efforts on child protection and education. We will also continue to advocate with all parties to the conflict and with donors for access and interventions to reach and assist those in need working in partnership with NGO Consortia, like the Syria International NGO Regional Forum (SIRF), in line with humanitarian principles and International Humanitarian Law.

The Syria Response continues to work with the affected children and communities on ending violence against children, in line with World Vision's strategic global priority in the It Takes a World to Prevent Violence against Children campaign. Working closely with the wider WV Partnership, especially the humanitarian advocacy network (HUFPOL), WV Syria Response continues to strengthen the reach and impact of its influence on international decision making in donor and multilateral capitals to address the humanitarian crisis Syria is facing. World Vision's preferred method of implementation is with local partners. The Syria Response will continue expanding its work with, and the capacity of local partners, in particular with faith-based actors, as part of our long-term strategy to strengthen communities and to advocate for change.



Photo: World Vision, 2016.

Child story from Turkey

Before 15-year-old Lamia left Syria in 2015, she completed her third year of middle school. Since then, she has not been able to attend school and had moved to Turkey with her family of seven members. Many Syrian children in Turkey do not school, because there are not enough facilities and they do not speak fluent Turkish. Even so, Lamia, who is 18 years old now, sat for her high school exams in Turkey, hoping to earn her certificate. Unfortunately, without the opportunity to study, she did not pass the exams. Instead, she pours herself into artistic classes at the Urfa Community Centre. She is now an avid participant in all of the artistic classes the centre offers, primarily to Syrians refugees. Art offers a way for her to continue learning and forget the conflict, since she is not enrolled in school in Turkey.

“This painting means more than one thing,” Lamia explains. **“First, it depicts the killing and bombing in Syria. It also expresses the suffering of the children, because that affects me deeply. He cannot play, or live life anymore. The boy in this photo represents all children,”** she adds.

Several of Lamia's paintings are displayed at the centre and she has done many more. Some of her photos depict Syria, others depict violence against women. She takes as many classes as she can at the centre, including painting, photography, digital storytelling, plus English lessons. **“I have a perfect feeling when I am drawing. It allows me to express my feelings.”**

We would like to thank all the generous donors, partners, and supporters whose contributions make this work possible, including:



¹ Twelve million Syrians now in the grip of hunger, worn down by conflict and soaring food prices, WFP 17 February 2021. Accessible here: <https://www.wfp.org/news/twelve-million-syrians-now-grip-hunger-worn-down-conflict-and-soaring-food-prices>

² Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan - Needs Overview, December 2020:4. Available here: http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/RNO_3RP.pdf

³ Syrian Refugees Overview, ACAPS, 25 August 2020. Available online here: <https://www.acaps.org/country/jordan/crisis/syrian-refugees#:~:text=Jordan%20hosts%20around%20658%2C000%20registered,are%20living%20out%20of%20camps.>

⁴ 10 Facts ABOUT the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Jordan, World Food Program blog post, October 2020. Accessible here: <https://www.wfpusa.org/articles/10-facts-about-the-syrian-refugee-crisis-in-jordan/>

⁵ Regional Refugees and Resilience Needs Overview, December 2020:13. Accessible here: http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/RNO_3RP.pdf

⁶ Walk the Talk, Jordan INGO Forum report, March 2021:1.

⁷ Walk the Talk Report, Jordan INGO Forum, March 2021:2.

⁸ Migrants' Presence Monitoring - Situation Report, August 2020. Available here: <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkey/mpm-turkey-migrants-presence-monitoring-situation-report-august-2020>

⁹ Turkey Refugee Dilemma, Center for American Progress, 19 March 2019. Available here: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/security/reports/2019/03/13/467183/turkeys-refugee-dilemma/>

¹⁰ Turkey Imposes Visa Regime on Syrians arriving from Third Countries, DW press release, 8 January 2016. Accessible here: <https://www.dw.com/en/turkey-imposes-visa-regime-on-syrians-arriving-from-third-countries/a-18967722>

¹¹ Syrian Refugees in Turkey: Changing Attitudes and Fortunes, by Suat Kinikloğlu, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, 5 February 2020:1. Accessible here: https://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/comments/2020C05_Kinikloglu.pdf

¹² WHO Dashboard accessed 5 March 2021: Turkey: WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard | WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard