Over the months of April and May 2021, World Vision Syria Response (WVSR) has continued responding to the devastating impact of COVID-19 and the Syrian crisis focusing on evidence-based advocacy across all of our three countries of operations. WVSR’s advocacy efforts concentrated on:

- collecting data on access to vaccines for the refugee population in Jordan and Turkey;
- working with the Syria INGO Regional Forum on the COVID-19 situation in Syria. The briefing was circulated to key stakeholders in all Capitals and with all relevant UN agencies;
- advocacy on the basis of the Jordan Government’s Defence Law. A letter, signed by WVUS, was circulated to the US Ambassador in Amman and USAID Mission Director;
- providing principled humanitarian public responses on the increasing violations we have witnessed in North West Syria, including indiscriminate attacks, child abuse. We have issued at least three reactive statements over the past month;
- partnering with peer INGOs to advocate for the reopening of the border crossings into North of Syria and the renewal of the last remaining one – Bab Al Hawa – ahead of the UN Security Council vote on July 10. To date we have:
  - drafted and signed on at least four statements / letters;
  - lobbied with Member States and met with UN agencies to coordinate the activities in North West Syria;
  - engaged with all of our World Vision UN offices and colleagues in Capitals to strengthen our engagement with donors and political stakeholders on the issue under debate.

Based on the above actions, WVSR aims to use its global reach and local connections to encourage vaccine acceptance and uptake by the world’s most vulnerable communities to save lives, protect livelihoods, and safeguard families and children from impoverishment and violence. WVSR also aims to call for a principled humanitarian response in Syria, based on needs; for this, access to the most vulnerable is needed and must be fully guaranteed.

### Updates: Humanitarian Advocacy Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Vision Syria Response managed</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria:</td>
<td>USD 5,029,104.45 → 7 Donors, 8 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan:</td>
<td>USD 987,953.82 → 8 donors, 13 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey:</td>
<td>USD 270,656.53 → 2 donors, 2 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>USD 6,287,714.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds

### World Vision Syria Response reached

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Vision Syria Response</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>354,290 beneficiaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women 97,829</td>
<td>Girls 91,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men 79,547</td>
<td>Boys 85,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYRIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308,379 beneficiaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women 88,096</td>
<td>Girls 78,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men 69,729</td>
<td>Boys 71,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JORDAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44,580 beneficiaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women 9,013</td>
<td>Girls 12,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men 9,392</td>
<td>Boys 13,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURKEY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,331 beneficiaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women 720</td>
<td>Girls 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men 426</td>
<td>Boys 86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Latest Figures across the Syria Response

**SYRIA**
- IDPs across Syria: 6.7 million people. IDPs in Northwest Syria: 2.7 million people
- People in need inside Syria: 13.4 million people, over 6 million children
- Nearly 2.45 million children in Syria are out of school
- 2 million Syrians now estimated to live in extreme poverty
- 12.4 million people inside Syria are food insecure
- 600,000 Syrian children are chronically malnourished inside the country
- 27% of Syrian families report that children show signs of psychological distress while aid agencies report much higher numbers of mental distress
- 80% of people living in IDP sites in Northwest Syria are women and children
- Refugees in neighbouring countries: 5.6 million people, half of which are estimated to be children
- 666,234 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, 48.7% are children
- 37,992 Syrian refugees are staying at Azraq Refugee Camp, 20% are under five years old
- 79,029 Syrian refugees are staying at Zaatari Refugee Camp, 18.5% are under five years old
- More than 50,640 Syrian and 39,830 Jordanian children are estimated to be out of school
- More than 5,300 resettlement places for refugees in Jordan have been confirmed

**JORDAN**
- 354,290 beneficiaries
- Women 97,829
- Girls 91,857
- Men 79,547
- Boys 85,057

**TURKEY**
- 1,331 beneficiaries
- Women 720
- Girls 99
- Men 426
- Boys 86

**World Vision Syria Response**

World Vision Syria Response reached 354,290 beneficiaries

7 Donors, 8 projects

World Vision Syria Response managed

Syria: USD 5,029,104.45 → 7 Donors, 8 projects

Jordan: USD 987,953.82 → 8 donors, 13 projects

Turkey: USD 270,656.53 → 2 donors, 2 projects

Total: USD 6,287,714.80

*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds

**Syria Response Situation Report**

World Vision Syria Response | April and May 2021

Over the months of April and May 2021, World Vision Syria Response (WVSR) has continued responding to the devastating impact of COVID-19 and the Syrian crisis focusing on evidence-based advocacy across all of our three countries of operations. WVSR’s advocacy efforts concentrated on:

- collecting data on access to vaccines for the refugee population in Jordan and Turkey;
- working with the Syria INGO Regional Forum on the COVID-19 situation in Syria. The briefing was circulated to key stakeholders in all Capitals and with all relevant UN agencies;
- advocacy on the basis of the Jordan Government’s Defence Law. A letter, signed by WVUS, was circulated to the US Ambassador in Amman and USAID Mission Director;
- providing principled humanitarian public responses on the increasing violations we have witnessed in North West Syria, including indiscriminate attacks, child abuse. We have issued at least three reactive statements over the past month;
- partnering with peer INGOs to advocate for the reopening of the border crossings into North of Syria and the renewal of the last remaining one – Bab Al Hawa – ahead of the UN Security Council vote on July 10. To date we have:
  - drafted and signed on at least four statements / letters;
  - lobbied with Member States and met with UN agencies to coordinate the activities in North West Syria;
  - engaged with all of our World Vision UN offices and colleagues in Capitals to strengthen our engagement with donors and political stakeholders on the issue under debate.

Based on the above actions, WVSR aims to use its global reach and local connections to encourage vaccine acceptance and uptake by the world’s most vulnerable communities to save lives, protect livelihoods, and safeguard families and children from impoverishment and violence. WVSR also aims to call for a principled humanitarian response in Syria, based on needs; for this, access to the most vulnerable is needed and must be fully guaranteed.
In addition to insecurity and critical economic challenges, the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic continue to be one of several factors contributing to increased humanitarian needs across the country, with an estimated 13.4 million people requiring assistance in 2021. Syria remains unstable and volatile, with the main hotspots of insecurity in Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Dara’a and Idlib governorates.

Syrian President Bashar Al Assad was announced winner of presidential elections held on May 26, with over 95% of votes. Election results are doubted by many stakeholders, but nevertheless demonstrates that Assad maintains grip on power. Government of Syria maintained a placticative approach, especially in restive areas of southern Syria in the run-up to elections. Nevertheless, unrest continued in Dara’s and unprecedented escalations were reported in Quneitra.

In Northwestern Syria, armed clashes, bombardments, and improvised explosive devices continued, further exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation. Armed clashes between IDP groups highlight inter-IDP tensions in Idlib. On 1 May, the COVID-19 vaccination programme for Northwest Syria began covering over 21,900 health care and social workers as of July following a prioritization exercise driven by a shortage of funds. But the real number of those affected is estimated at 200,000.

The Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation’s data. As a result, the Ministry decided to prioritise all efforts on two sectors only: health and child protection, in light of the alarming numbers of child marriage, child labour and school drop out since the pandemic started.

On a brighter note, Jordan has been one of the lead countries providing access to vaccines. The second project builds on several topics including proposal writing, financial management and monitoring and evaluation of projects. However, in order to carry out these projects, funds are needed for employees and for administrative purposes. In the past, the acquisition of funds was very difficult and costly, since the association itself did not have the competence to write applications. “We did not have the experience nor the capacity to write proposals, and if we were to hire a specialist, as associations, we would not be able to afford it,” says Yasmine Shdaifat, the association’s President. “The lack of new projects was an obstacle that prevented us from growing,” she adds.

After successfully applying to the programme, the local organisation was given training by World Vision on several topics including proposal writing, financial management and monitoring and evaluation of projects. “We learned so much from this training, which lasted for around two months. Afterwards, we were able to start writing proposals,” Yasmine says. “As the President, I am proud to say that four project proposals were written based on the training we took with World Vision, whom I am very thankful for.”

Three out of the four project proposals submitted after the training was provided, were successfully secured and the organisation started the implementation. The first project aims to recycle hazardous medical waste that was used to prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading. The second project builds on several topics including proposal writing, financial management and monitoring and evaluation of projects. “We learned so much from this training, which lasted for around two months. Afterwards, we were able to start writing proposals,” Yasmine says. “As the President, I am proud to say that four project proposals were written based on the training we took with World Vision, whom I am very thankful for.”

In 2020, World Vision has trained four Community-Based Organisations on finance, proposal writing, project management, procurement and human resources. “Many Community-Based Organisations were founded after the Syria crisis began. As a humanitarian aid and development organisation, World Vision carried out needs’ assessments for a number of these organisations only to find out that they have significant needs. Most commonly, the need for support to enable them to work more independently and to express their community needs in effective ways. The provided support should enable them to communicate and interact effectively with donors and communities’ needs - using professional knowledge and tools that are up to date,” says Amjad Al Khlaifat, Project Manager, World Vision International.
COVID-19 vaccination

In May, COVID-19 cases in Northwestern Syria doubled, reaching 1,558 with up to 100 new cases every day and only 54,000 doses of vaccine out of 256,800 were administered in a population of over 4 million people. The pledged COVID-19 vaccines supply to Northwest Syria would only cover a maximum of 20 per cent of the population, and no vaccines are allocated to date to cover Northeast Syria areas where cases are increasing daily.

The number of positive COVID-19 cases among refugees in Jordan remain below the national average at 3 per cent of the refugee camp population. The vaccine roll-out in Jordan for the refugee population continues and has more than tripled in May. As of the end of May, almost 4.5K Syrian refugees were vaccinated in Azraq Refugee Camp and more than 12K in Zaatari Refugee Camp. Awareness raising and community outreach on the vaccination programme are being conducted in both camps and one vaccination centre is running now in Azraq while two are operating in Zaatari.

In Turkey, health workers have administered over 30 million vaccines, enough for 21 per cent of the population to receive at least one dose and 16 per cent to be fully vaccinated. Refugees in Turkey have the same access to vaccines as nationals if they own an ID card. However, if a refugee or asylum seeker is undocumented or doesn’t have they necessary ID, they will not be able to register in the government system in order to receive the vaccine.

COVID-19 response overview

People reached 60,266 including 18,227 children

- Syria: 59,240 beneficiaries including 18,211 children
- Jordan: 157 Syrian beneficiaries
- Turkey: 869 beneficiaries (refugees and local community) including 16 children

COVID-19 response key stats

As of 28 June 2021

- Jordan: 749K cases, 733K recovered, 9,718 deaths
- Turkey: 5.41M cases, 5.28M recovered, 49,576 deaths
- Syria: 25,365 cases, 21,791 recovered, 1,864 deaths
- NWS: 25,465 cases, 22,275 recovered, 707 deaths

Story from Turkey

With over five million infections and more than 44,000 deaths, Turkey is one of the most affected countries in the region by the pandemic. In the past year, the country went through several curfews and lockdowns which affected the refugees and host communities’ economic situation. “In aim to help Syrian refugee women and host communities acquire new skills, World Vision partnered with Turkish Red Crescent to provide them with hope for a better life. Together with GAP Regional Development Administration and the Domestic Production Cooperation with Women Hands, we provided 50 Syrian refugee women and host community residents with capacity building and inclusion sessions. The economic decline is hard felt by women as unemployment rates continue to increase and the most vulnerable struggle to provide for their families. It is critical that we continue our mission in supporting the vulnerable communities through such interventions,” says Yusuf Avci, World Vision Syria Response Turkey Portfolio Manager.

Photo: © Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), 2021
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.

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.

- **5,389** Syrian people inside the country were reached through raising awareness sessions and events to increase knowledge of child protection risks and needs and gender-based violence
- **4,846** Syrian girls and boys inside Syria were provided with psychosocial support sessions
- **66** consultation sessions were provided to survivors of gender-based violence inside Syria
- **2,618** Syrian women and girls inside Syria received vocational training

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

- **88,163** 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
- **42,978** Syrian 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 programme that provided refugees with employment opportunities
- **77,488** Syrian people received hygiene and covid-19 supply kits and other hygiene promotion activities to reduce the spread and risk of diseases
- **156,879** Syrian people benefitted from solid waste removal via regular waste collection, provision of garbage containers, and proper disposal in authorized sites
- **91,723** Syrian people benefitted from public sewage networks and sanitation facilities improvements and wastewater desludging services
Strategic Objective 3: Improve most vulnerable household economic resilience through income generation and cash assistance.

- 399 Jordanians and Syrian refugees in Jordan were provided with cash-for-work opportunities through dams protection projects.
- 560 Syrian refugees benefitted from livelihood opportunities through a solid waste management project in Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan.

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

- 1,058 Syrian boys and girls in Jordan were provided with remote remedial education.
- 1,236 Syrian refugee children attended Kindergarten (Early Childhood Education and Development) in Jordan.
- 69 Syrian caregivers were provided with parental training in Jordan.

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

- 65,001 people inside Syria, including 25,226 children, received face masks.
- 50,393 people including 20,737 children received essential primary healthcare services in Syria.
- 2,239 people inside Syria including 1,450 children were admitted to hospitals.
- 1,020 babies were delivered in Syria.
Story from Northwestern Syria

Jouri, 13, is the youngest in the family. Before conflict started they were living together with her aunt and grandmother in a small village in Northwest Syria. When heavy bombardment fell upon their village, their home was destroyed; one of Jouri’s brothers also died in one of the attacks that had killed hundreds of thousands already. Her other brother was also badly injured by a flying shrapnel due to the same shelling. This was too much to bear for Jouri’s parents and soon after her father lost his clear judgement, shock had a tremendous impact on him. He got depressed and decided to abandon his own family as he could not cope with the suffering. He moved to another village to live with some of their close relatives, running away from all responsibilities he had to carry as a husband and a father. The mother and her children were left alone and had to look for a life elsewhere. They traveled to another village in the northwest seeking safety and means to provide for themselves. Luckily, the family was able to rent a small shop to live in. It only had two rooms: a tiny bathroom and a shared space where everything else had to happen - cooking, living and sleeping.

The young girl found a low-paying job in one of the nearby wedding halls, her tasks consisted of cleaning and arranging items. Not only did she exhaust herself, but she also had to drop out of school. “My mother wasn’t able to afford what we needed for school. No clothes nor stationary. I had no choice,” the young girl said.

World Vision’s partner, Syria Relief, has been running a protection project in Northwestern Syria whose target area covered the area in which Jouri and her family lived. Syria Relief’s child protection staff were able to reach out to the girl’s household through a community member’s report about their situation. A visit was scheduled to the family’s house, where the staff introduced the project’s services to the mother.

Jouri and her mother gladly agreed to receive support from the organisation. A number of assessments were made for the family, accordingly, a care plan was developed for the 13-year-old that would match her most pressing needs. The plan aimed at getting Jouri to quit her job so could continue her education. The project’s activities are not solely targeting children, but parents too. The mother was enrolled in awareness sessions about child labour and school drop-out. “I didn’t know how dangerous it was for my daughter to be working at such an age. She has a right to learn and be a child,” said the 45-year-old mother.

Jouri, then, quit her job and was enrolled in a school close to her house. She also received clothes and school stationery. She said: “Miss Maysa [a child protection caseworker at Syria Relief] asked me ‘Would you want to go back to school?’, and I responded with a ‘yes’. She comforted me and assured me that a plan for that would be set for me. I now feel like the child that I am, just like the rest of the children dreaming and planning their future. I want to be a teacher and be able to help my mother when I grow up.” Jouri went back to school like a normal child. Syria Relief’s team referred her to remotely attend psychosocial support activities via WhatsApp. She was also provided with toys so she could develop her interactive capabilities with other peers.