



Syria Response - Jordan, Syria and Turkey ANNUAL REPORT

Our Impact **Update**



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Cover photo: Young Syrian girls at World Vision's Graduation ceremony for children who attended the Early Childhood Development programme in Azraq Refugee Camp, Jordan. Elias Abu Ata, Jordan, 2020.

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Majd is an active six-year-old Syrian boy who is fond of soccer. He dreams of being a professional soccer player when he grows up. Majd is enrolled in the Early Childhood and Development programme inside Azraq Refugee Camp. Photo: Elias Abu Ata, World Vision, Jordan, 2021.



Message from World Vision Syria Response Director

2020 was a challenging year dominated by a worldwide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also a particularly difficult year for each and every one of us, as we dealt with our own personal challenges. The year 2020 had significant influence on World Vision Syria Response staff and our beneficiaries – adapting to new working modalities, loss of livelihoods and a sense of safety and security among our beneficiaries. Despite the constraints we all faced, I am personally humbled and extremely grateful for the dedication of our staff who went above and beyond my expectations to continue their work to the same high standards.

The uncertainty induced by COVID-19 was overwhelming for all of us and I believe we are all amazed by the agility and adaptability we have discovered in making sure our beneficiaries get the care they deserve.

World Vision Syria Response became part of World Vision's global initiative to fight the COVID-19 virus, and it is a privilege to see all World Vision offices proactively responding to this unprecedented global crisis. Children have remained at the forefront of our emergency efforts and World Vision Syria Response immediately addressed their educational needs as they transitioned to remote learning. Education for children was heavily impacted across Jordan, Turkey and Syria. For example, schools in Jordan were closed and it was our humanitarian imperative to promote remote education support and ensure children were not left behind in their learning and development.

As Syria Response, we use humanitarian entrepreneurship as a vehicle to put our beneficiaries first. We are focused on how we can listen to the communities we serve, reach the most vulnerable, empower communities, connect with our partners, challenge the systems that cause injustice (including advocating with the most vulnerable to ensure their perspectives are considered) and are focused on coming up with solutions 'with' and 'by' our beneficiaries that remain adaptive to our context. We do this through robust accountability systems, ongoing research, regular engagement with communities through a strong field-based monitoring and evaluation team, and through our partnering approach that seeks to reinforce the Grand Bargain.

This year, and against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, we revised our strategy and established a direction for the three countries we cover (Jordan, Turkey and Syria) for the next three years. In so doing, we have developed a comprehensive and inclusive strategy for all three countries, which goes beyond emergency relief to focusing more on sustainable solutions and long-term development interventions. We have also undertaken a full restructure of our Syria Response to better streamline the work of the three offices involved.

We are blessed for the work we have achieved thanks to our staff's resilience and commitment and the support of our donors, as well as our World Vision Support Offices around the world. Thank you to each one of you. You have supported us on various projects that were essential for continuing to serve those who need us most.



Johan Mooij, Syria Response Director World Vision International

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Our Impact

World Vision is a movement of people motivated by our desire to serve God and improve the lives of vulnerable children around the world. We believe that a country, and a world, where all children are free from need and able to reach their full potential is possible.

We are driven by our desire to ensure that every boy and girl has what they need to grow - in mind, body and spirit, empowering them to live lives filled with joy, become all Jesus created them to be and to go further than ever imagined. 2020 marked the last year of the World Vision Syria Response 2018-2020 strategy. The strategy focused its programmes in five response countries - Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. In doing so, the strategy developed integrated and cohesive approaches based on identified vulnerabilities across the five countries; leveraged strong local and national network relationships within countries; and ensured assets of each country benefitted those in most need in refugee and non-refugee communities. The strategy for fiscal year (FY) 2018-20 guided investment primarily in four strategic objectives across the response, which were also aligned with the previous World Vision International's global strategy - 'Our Promise 2030', the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan and the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan.

Guided by more than 60 years of experience and expertise, our dedicated staff employ proven, effective development and relief practices to empower communities to become self-sufficient and bring real, lasting change.

As a leading global partner, our efforts enrich the lives of all involved as we labour alongside supporters, stakeholders, families and communities to transform lives and bring hope. Together, we have impacted the lives of more than 3 million children in our response and 200 million vulnerable children around the world. We are privileged to serve as a reflection of God's unconditional love as we seek to see relationships restored and communities transformed. We humbly acknowledge that without the goodness of God and the generosity of donors, we would not be able to do what we do.

World Vision is a global relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with the children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Our Vision for every child, life in all its fullness, Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

Guided by the FY 2018-20 strategy, World Vision invested over USD 188 million, reaching over 3,8 million people, through primarily four strategic objectives that:



with policies that:

- provided access to the most vulnerable Syrian people in Northwest Syria, Jordan and Turkey
- prioritized the increasing child protection needs of Syrian girls and boys displaced in Syria, Jordan and Turkey
- informed donor governments of the rapidly escalating child marriage incidents in Northwest Syria
- ensured Syria crisis donors and governments continue prioritizing funding and resources for the decade long conflict

In so doing, World Vision seeks to realise its vision for girls and boys affected by the crisis in Syria to enjoy well-being and be granted the chance to survive, adapt and thrive.

"Life in camps is dangerous for girls and boys. It is not safe, nor are there any of the basic necessities of life. There is no medical treatment and they are deprived of an education. It is not acceptable, but someone living with five children in one tent may marry his daughter off, at a young age to try and give her a chance to live a better life. [Child marriage] has increased a lot recently", says Mohammad, a father of five in a displaced community in Northwest Syria.

Resources

In 2020, World Vision utilised USD 73,7 million to respond to the crisis inside Syria, as well as its impact on neighbouring countries of Jordan and Turkey. The response funding levels increased by almost USD 8 million from FY 2019. This was possible thanks to the generosity of 12 multilateral and institutional donors and the tireless efforts of 14 Support Offices within World Vision International's global network, as follows:



The COVID-19 response increased FY 2020 funding to respond to this health crisis. Additional funds enabled the Syria Response teams to implement mitigation and prevention measures to combat the global pandemic and its secondary impact on the most vulnerable Syrians and host communities in the region; for example, through remote learning, remote case management, COVID-19 prevention and treatment, provision of critical health equipment (such as, hygiene kits, intensive care units (ICU), oxygen tubes, etc.) and COVID-19 information and awareness raising sessions and messages.

Reaching the most vulnerable

During FY 2020, World Vision Syria Response reached a total of 2,065,800 conflict-affected adults and children across Turkey (1% of total reach), Jordan (5% of total reach) and Syria (94% of total reach).

Almost two-thirds of people (63%) benefitted from water, sanitation and hygiene services, 14% of vulnerable families benefitted from World Vision supported health services, 8% from shelter services for displaced families, 6% from protection services, including psychosocial and case management support for children, 6% from education and 3% from cash and livelihoods interventions.

83% of World Vision's beneficiaries during this period were women (26%) and children (57%).¹



World Vision Syria Response beneficiary reach by sector

¹ The livelihoods sector is second highest for this year's financial allocation yet lowest in the number of beneficiaries. This is due to the high costs per beneficiary for these interventions which is extremely high in comparison with the other sector interventions.

Agility and adaptability during **COVID-19** health crisis

The rapid worldwide spread of COVID-19 has severely affected health and economic systems in many countries. 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 has developed a holistic programme framework to respond to the emerging needs in all three country contexts. Since March 2020, the approach has been threefold:

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

In 2020, displaced Syrians and health workers

inside Syria experienced increased

STRESS, PLACING ADDITIONAL DEMAND ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DUE TO COVID-19.

4 in 5 refugees 🗳 🍄 🕻

and internally displaced persons

reported **NEGATIVE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PSYCHOLOGICAL** WELL-BEING.

72% stated their income has reduced due to COVID-19.

| | |

*World Vision report 'High Risk – Low Priority'. The survey asked refugees and internally displaced persons in Brazil, Colombia, the DRC, Jordan, Peru, Turkey, Uganda, and Venezuela



We are World Vision

World Vision Syria Response has been operating in Syria, Jordan and Turkey since the conflict started in 2011. The Syria Response team has provided lifesaving protection, education, WaSH, livelihoods and health services to refugees and local communities, impacted by the ongoing conflict.

The war has killed almost half a million people, including 55,000 children inside Syria and displaced more than 12 million Syrians by the end of 2020². Half of the Syria people remain internally uprooted from their homes exposed to continuous attacks and shelling. This leaves 13 million³ Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, 4,8 million⁴ of them being children.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis and the lack of accountability for the grave violations against children and civilians have further compounded the situation of Syrian children, their families and host communities. The economic downturn and the ensuing collapse of the currency drove the prices of necessities, such medicines and food, to a level out of reach for most Syrians. This was also reflected by a multi-sectoral needs assessment conducted in 2020 in Northwest of Syria (NWS) by World Vision and our local partners, where 21% of the interviewed households reported difficulties in accessing healthcare services, 40% struggled with the high cost of transportation and 20% with the lack of or high cost of medicines and health services⁵. These difficulties were more pronounced among women and girls being unable to access essential sexual and reproductive health services⁶. Additionally, it is estimated that the number of people in need of health services will increase by 3% in 2021 when compared with 2020⁷. The largest absolute change was seen in Idleb governorate in Northwest Syria

NWS where the number of people in need increased with more than 220,000⁸.

In FY 2020, more than 2 million people were reached, including **456,000** Syrian people with critical health services since the beginning of 2020 until October, and more than **208,000** Syrian children, parents and caregivers were provided with child protection services. More than 70 per cent are children.

By 2023, World Vision Syria Response aims to contribute to the improved well-being of 1,700,000 girls and boys affected by the Syria refugee crisis, by addressing their humanitarian needs, promoting and protecting their rights. This represents a 59% increase in reach in comparison with the past three years, in terms of unique beneficiaries.

World Vision is a global relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Our Vision for every child, life in all its fullness,

Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

² World Vision International Report, March 2020. Too High a Price to Pay – The Cost of Conflict for Syria's Children. Available online here <u>https://www.wvi.org/emergencies/syria-crisis-response/syria10/cost-conflict-syrias-children</u>

³ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syria_2021_humanitarian_needs_overview.pdf

⁴ https://www.unicef.org/media/99836/file/Whole-of-Syria-Humanitarian-SitRep-April-2021.pdf

⁵ WV and SRD MSNA 2021

⁶ UNFPA (2020). Regional Situation Report for The Syria Crisis. Issue No. 96

⁷ 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic

⁸ 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic

Our People



World Vision's hygiene promotion team and volunteers have been conducting public awareness campaigns in northern Syria on COVID-19 infections, in addition to preclinical symptoms and prevention measures to combat the Coronavirus. Photo courtesy of World Vision staff in Northwest Syria, 2020.

Keeping Our Promise

Our global strategy as World Vision is a promise to the world's most vulnerable boys and girls, that we will relentlessly pursue our vision for every child, life in all its fullness and our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so. The Syria Response is at the forefront of World Vision's efforts to deepen our commitment to the most vulnerable living in fragile contexts. World Vision has deliberately and strategically chosen to work with the children and families of the Syria crisis because they are among the most at-risk in the world. Therefore, our strategy commits us to expand our:

- impact through increased access to most vulnerable communities;
- influence through increased evidencebased advocacy efforts and innovative programming;
- visibility as a thought leader on child protection through research, impact studies and external engagement;
- collaboration with local and faith-based organisations.

This will enable World Vision Syria Response to scale up our support for the people affected by the ongoing Syria crisis; addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and building resilience of beneficiaries and communities as part of the humanitariandevelopment-peacebuilding nexus approach. Collaboration with other actors and other host countries where World Vision works will be vital to deliver on the impact proposed. This aligns with World Vision International's global commitment to children through 'Our Promise' and its five strategic imperatives.



CHRISTIAN FAITH AND CALLING WITH BOLDNESS

AND HUMILIY

World Vision Syria Response has been piloting and integrating World Vision 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. Standard indicators⁹, used to measure progress have highlighted the deterioration of conditions for Syrians and Syrian refugees such as purchasing power for basic food items, incidence of child marriage and/or child labour cases, or loss of employment. Basic needs have increased and access to social services have decreased over the years. Poverty, malnutrition, access to basic livelihoods, school attendance, and even the population itself have all been in decline. In response, World Vision continues to provide immediate lifesaving assistance, such as, water, sanitation, health, and shelter while building the long-term capacity and resilience of the communities we work in by addressing their protection, education, and livelihood needs.

WaSH Innovation and COVID-19 agility

World Vision Syria Response and partners responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with a multifaceted program that simultaneously tackled prevention of the spread, as well as mitigation of the impact of the pandemic by supporting COVID-19 isolation and treatment centres with intensive care unit (ICU) capacity, community mobilisation and awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 related topics, such as, hygiene promotion, social distancing, wearing of masks and vaccinations. The team has also increased the capacity of health staff by conducting COVID-19 related trainings, which include infection prevention and control, and reorganising the routine of operations in health facilities to minimise risk of infections trainings; while ensuring the continued provision of routine health services to people in need. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a rapid response team was deployed in NWS that included integrated health and protection services, and support

for basic water and sanitation services and distribution of hygiene kits and masks were continued.

Despite the challenges faced during the COVID-19 global health crisis, World Vision Syria Response's WaSH activities were expanded through our local partners (International Humanitarian Relief Association IYD) and War Child, in NWS. At its heart Wash Up! is a behaviour change programme that not only teaches children how to avoid bacteria and keep clean and healthy, it also empowers children to bring healthy hygiene habits to their friends, families and communities—they become change agents. For the Syria Response context, the WaSH UP! program has been adapted to support the socio-emotional needs of Syrian refugee children, many of whom have experienced significant trauma.



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



269,445

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

⁹ The standard indicators used are the following: 1) Proportion of adolescents who experienced physical attacks in the past 12 months, by sex (C4A.24698); 2) Proportion of adolescents who are married (C4A.0014); 3) % of boys and girls with positive and peaceful relationships with their parents/caregivers (C3B.24689); 4) Proportion of most vulnerable HHs (female headed and male headed) who are confident that they can access protection services available without external support (C4A.23443)

The World Vision Syria Response team provided training tools to War Child and IYD to ensure a high quality of program deliverables and activities aimed at improving the hygiene best practices to mitigate the risk of water related diseases¹⁰. To date, activities are ongoing and aim to reach around 5,000 children with the WaSH UP! awareness raising sessions, and to expand WaSH UP! for it to be adopted by other peer aid organizations.

World Vision's WaSH innovation was also applied to our response in Jordan where the innovative decentralized wastewater treatment system pilot project was started in partnership with a youth led start-up company in 9 schools. The schools provide formal education classes to 2,000 Syrian refugee and Jordanian host community children. This project aimed at improving the efficient use of water resources and reduce the risk of ecodistractive sanitations system. It represented World Vision's contribution to the efforts of facing water scarcity and climate change challenges in Jordan, and raising students' awareness. World Vision is considering expanding this project through other funds for greater impact and reach out.



Ghazi* is enjoying the clean water thanks to the Japan Platform (JPF) Emergency WASH Project for Conflict-Affected People in Northwest Syria. This project was implemented through World Vision's partner Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HiHFAD). Photo: HiHFAD, Northwest Syria, 2021.

¹⁰ More information on the WASH UP! Programme to be accessed here: https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Sesame%20WASHUP%21%20 Presentation.pdf

05 Child Protection, Education and Livelihoods delivering for the most in need girls and boys

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



5,418

consultation sessions were provided to survivors of genderbased violence



, 10,886

Syrian girls and boys were provided with Psyschosocial support sessions



2,718 women and girl

women and girls inside Syria were provided with vocational training

World Vision Syria Response works to ensure that the physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of the most vulnerable children are met, focusing on activities that prevent violence and harmful situations. To this end, child protection programmes strive to protect those who are experiencing or are at risk of violence through contextualised and piloted interventions and improved capacity of service providers through direct trainings and workshops addressing skills and knowledge needed to respond to violence against children in all its forms. In addition, child survivors of abuse, exploitation or violence are supported through appropriate community-based care systems; which are framed within the safe spaces for children and women, community committees, service mapping and referral processes; after which they are reintegrated into their families, when possible and appropriate and that is achieved while we work with schools, communities and camps management.



Imad* from Syria along with his two children. He won the fund to create his own sewing shop in Sanilurfa, Turkey. This programme helped him to develop his skills in order to open his own sewing shop. Photo: Clemens Hess, World Vision, Turkey, 2021.

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

Believing that families with secure, productive and resilient livelihoods can protect, educate, care for, and nurture their children from infancy to adulthood, World Vision's **livelihood interventions** under the Syria Response aim at improving household level livelihoods through empowering extremely vulnerable individuals with the skills, knowledge and financial means to meet the basic and development needs of their children and families. Using skills training, small enterprise development, and cash and voucher

programming, World Vision Syria Response's livelihood programmes prioritise the following:

- children's needs;
- in-country humanitarian needs;
- the mitigation measures against the consequences of the COVID-19 health crisis, and of climate change;
- any opportunity to conduct research and advocacy associated with the livelihood sector.



Pinar* is one of the beneficiaries who won the fund to produce bulbous plants. She is one of 186 people who benefited from World Vision's project that was implemented by Orange in Sanilurfa, Turkey. Photo: Clemens Hess, World Vision, Turkey, 2021.

Ensure girls and boys access to education opportunities.

871

children were supported with remedial education in Syria

2,931

Syrian refugee children attended Kindergarten (Early Childhood Development)



1,270

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



484

Syrian teachers were trained

Another sector that World Vision Syria Response prioritises is education, implementing programmes with local implementing partners for the most vulnerable out-of-school children (catch-up programme) and those who are at risk of dropping out of school (remedial programme)¹¹. To this end, World Vision Syria Response has provided 3,229 Syrian refygee girls and boys in Azraq Camp with early childhood education and development activities, including parental training and engagement. Additionally, children and youth in Jordan are also empowered through remedial education in public schools in Jordan to ensure they are supported and retained in schools.

In light of the COVID-19 global health crisis, World Vision continues to focus on ensuring that children continue learning despite school closures and other challenges. This is accomplished through various means including blended learning programmes, online learning, and WhatsApp groups. Psycho-social support for boys and girls is a much needed service and more than 5,600 children in NWS benefitted from this assistance as the pandemic affected their mental and emotional well-being. Additionally, World Vision provides teacher training to promote the quality of teaching and learning in classrooms and ensure better learning outcomes for children. More than 480 teachers and educational personnel was trained on education in emergencies in NWS alone. Strengthening the education system represents another objective, as World Vision works to ensure coherence and complementarity with existing national initiatives and efforts being done, so as to promote the sustainability and ownership of interventions. This led to almost 111,000 Syrian children, men and women provided with essential education services across Turkey, Jordan and Syria.



OF GIRLS AND WOMEN in Northwest Syria identified

domestic violence

as a key challenge during early marriage.

¹¹ World Vision Remedial & Catch-up Programs Information <u>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tSBkN2MK-oRkH0WypXCit88lpDPclX-O/</u>edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102582358771397867608&rtpof=true&sd=true

Humanitarian advocacy

Despite the FY20 year being filled with unprecedented operational and funding challenges, World Vision Syria Response has reached **3 million children** through influence, income and impact on **13 humanitarian** policies and actions across the three countries where we operate. The number of children reached comprises both World Vision Syria Response's direct reach through projects that deliver the much-needed assistance to them, as well as the indirect reach through advocacy efforts. This has been the first-time fragile contexts have contributed to the overall advocacy success monitoring exercise of World Vision International. As a result, this has contributed to the Middle East and Eastern Europe (MEER) region's largest growth in policy changes across our offices, with growth more than tripling since the last fiscal year.

06

World Vision Syria Response has also been leading on humanitarian advocacy in response to the Syria crisis affecting displaced children and families inside the country and in host countries, with 45% of policy actions achieved in fragile contexts in the MEER region being reported by the Syria Response office. These policies, reached millions of vulnerable children in fragile contexts and countries with sub-national fragility (such as Jordan and Turkey), spanning across sectors, recognizing the diverse and multi-faceted needs of children living in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. For example, in Turkey, World Vision Syria Response worked alongside and built the advocacy capacity of local partners to improve policy implementation, successfully influencing government authorities to improve the standardisation of the child protection referral mechanism across different governorates. This resulted in improving access to basic services, such as, medical care and child protection services for the estimated **1.8 million Syrian** refugee children in Turkey.

In June 2020, World Vision Syria Response published the <u>Stolen Future Report</u>, which highlighted the impact of war on child marriage

rates in NWS. The report revealed that child marriage has significantly increased since the conflict began ten years ago according to almost 100% of girls and 94% of boys surveyed. More than half of women and girls surveyed said that the fear of sexual exploitation, abuse and kidnapping drove forced early marriage. Increased use of social media was also identified by males as a leading driver of child marriage for girls to protect family honour and 70% of girls and women said that child brides were at increased risk of domestic violence.

Moreover, the Syria Response office has also leveraged its positioning in the UN Global capitals – Geneva and New York – via its offices to continue advocating for unhindered access to the populations in need in Northwest Syria via the UN Security Council authorised border crossings. World Vision has coordinated these advocacy efforts with partner INGOs showcasing the scale of impact on the ground. This resulted in the continued operation of Bab Al-Hawa border crossing in NWS to the UN and aid agencies on the ground for a period of one year.

The humanitarian advocacy efforts and actions of the Syria Response office are rooted in the evidence produced by programmes in the field, the policy and political context in which programmes operate and are aimed at strengthening the voice of beneficiaries through partnerships with local organisations, INGOs and aid actors. To this end, World Vision Syria Response is co-chairing the **No Lost Generation initiative** together with UNICEF, with whom we managed to sound the alarm on the COVID-19 compounded vulnerabilities of children across the region, particularly the worrying increase in child marriage and child labour cases.

World Vision Syria Response plans to build on the achievements of this fiscal year and increase its thought leadership on child protection and education across Jordan, Syria and Turkey in FY21.



Syrian children inside Azraq Refugee Camp. As of August 2021, the camp hosts more than 36,500 Syrian refugees, 59.68 per cent are children.

Azraq Refugee Camp Photo data.unhcr.orghttps://data2. unhcr.org



Financial Summary

FY20 Spending by Sector Image: Spending by Sector </



TOTAL: 39,681,542.54



Out of 1.17 million women and girls of reproductive age in Northwest Syria,

8,500 ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND PREGNANT WOMEN are giving birth every month.

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