

Syria Response Situation Report

World Vision Syria Response | August and September 2021

World Vision Syria Response managed

Syria: USD 3,685,493.59 → 12 Donors, 15 projects
Jordan: USD 1,476,066.47 → 11 donors, 14 projects
Turkey: USD 210,114.91 → 2 donors, 2 projects
Total: USD 5,371,674.97 by country in Q4 of 2021

*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds



Map of World Vision Syria Response offices (WVSR)

World Vision Syria Response reached

635,931 beneficiaries

Women 164,220 **Girls 154,997**
Men 163,065 **Boys 153,649**

SYRIA

588,000 beneficiaries

Women 154,249 **Girls 141,227**
Men 152,880 **Boys 139,644**

JORDAN

46,443 beneficiaries

Women 9,652 **Girls 13,317**
Men 9,972 **Boys 13,502**

TURKEY

1,488 beneficiaries

Women 319 **Girls 453**
Men 213 **Boys 503**

Humanitarian Advocacy Impact

Throughout the August and September 2021 response, World Vision has been advocating at national, regional and global levels to ensure that the rights and needs of boys and girls are protected and prioritised by key decision makers, including the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as donors, governments, and humanitarian actors, in their strategies, policies, and operations.

WVSR has continued to ask for the warring parties, the Commission of Inquiry and UN Human Rights Council Member States to guarantee the protection of civilian and civilian infrastructure in light of the escalating fighting and the COVID-19 spike in positive cases in Northern Syria. To this end, WVSR together with Save the Children have issued a new oral statement during the HRC meeting in Geneva, end of September. WVSR has also provided continuous technical input into the UN Resolution on the same topic, recommendations which were taken on board by the penholders.

The COVID-19 situation has worsened over the last two months in Northwest Syria, with 1,700 positive cases reported a day throughout the month of September. WVSR has issued a [statement](#) reporting a triple increase in cases in just a month, including as part of the Northwest Syria Forum. Additionally, WVSR has also regularly engaged with donors and key actors in Syria to highlight the needs and gaps of the COVID-19 response due to the current situation.

WVSR has also continued working with its Turkish local partners - IGAM and IBC - to raise donor awareness on the situation of refugees and the financial landscape for the Syria response in Turkey affecting implementing agencies as part of the ECHO protection project, by developing two policy briefs and hosting a meeting with UNHCR that informed the preparatory briefing of the High Commissioner for Refugees with Turkish authorities.

- [WVI Price Shocks](#) report showcasing the grave impact food prices have on the displaced populations and the food insecurity levels that have worsened since the COVID-19 health crisis started, including facts on Syria.
- Annual Report FY20 available [here](#)
- WVSR Capacity Statements available [here](#)

Latest Figures across the Syria Response

SYRIA

- IDPs across Syria: **6.7 million** people. IDPs in Northwest Syria: **2.8 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

JORDAN

- **670,364** registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, **49%** are children
- **80.6%** of Syrian refugees live outside camps in urban areas
- **38,298** Syrian refugees are staying at Azraq Refugee Camp, **20%** are under five years old
- **79,758** Syrian refugees are staying at Zaatari Refugee Camp, **18.4%** 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 for 2021. In total, **2,513** Syrians have departed from Jordan so far in 2021

TURKEY

- **3,721,057** registered Syrian refugees in Turkey, **45.6%** are children
- **98%** of Syrians under temporary protection live in urban and rural areas
- **42%** of female-headed households reported being entirely dependent on humanitarian aid
- **1.8 million** Syrians under temporary protection, international protection applicants and status holders are living under the poverty line in Turkey, including **280,000** living in extreme poverty
- **More than 35 percent** of school-aged children were still out-of-school and did not have any access to education opportunities
- **5,600** Refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to 14 countries in 2021. Over **4,300** refugees departed for resettlement to 13 countries, 79% of whom were Syrian

Situational overview for Northwest Syria, Jordan and Turkey

SYRIA:



Frontline violence increased in Northwest Syria (NVWS) as Russia and Government of Syria (GoS) escalated pressure on Organised Armed Groups (OAG) held-areas backed by Turkey, to strengthen their negotiation positions ahead of talks in Sochi. Uptick in conflict dynamics have reinforced expectation of "territorial swaps" in the region, namely: GoR/GoS interest to regain control of M-4 Highway and southern Idlib, and GoT interest to remove YPG/SDF (Kurdish-lead forces) from Tel Rifat, Manbij, and Kobane.

Armed violence has also spiked in the south, where GoS used overwhelming military power to re-impose reconciliation agreements across Dara'a Governorate. New agreements sought to perpetuate a narrative of victory through strength while resolving little on the ground. As agreements were coming into force in late September, pre-escalation patterns of conflict activity, such as assassinations and targeted attacks were resuming because none of the agreements address underlying grievances. Furthermore, as the Sweida Governorate (with majority Druze population) saw the emergence of a potential credible OAG actor that could pose a challenge to the governorate's traditional neutrality.

The east side of the country also saw an increase in incidents between Turkey and the Kurdish Self-Administration, which took the form of Organised Armed Groups (OAG) escalating along the frontlines of northcentral Syria (NCS) and also several targeted strikes against mid-level SDF or SDF-affiliated commanders. This localized increase in violence was short-lived, with no further deterioration of Security risks inside Northcentral Syria.

Already dire economic conditions have continued worsening across Syria, putting the population even under higher distress in face of upcoming winter and Covid-19 challenges. This also reflects in a country-wide increase of criminality and corruption, further complicating the humanitarian response.

JORDAN:



Since May 2021, there has been a steady and low number of COVID-19 reported cases amongst the refugee population according to UNHCR. More than 18% of those living in Azraq Camp, have been vaccinated which is a nine times increase in comparison with April 2021, while across Jordan there was an almost six times increase for the same period.¹ To date, only 14,081 new Syrians have been registered by UNHCR for this year.² The low number is also due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions and the rather stable situation in Northern Syria that has not led to large displacements outside the country, especially into neighbouring Jordan. However, the needs of the displaced population and Jordanian host communities have worsened while the Humanitarian Response Plan is only 14% funded. Increased poverty, particularly, pushed many under the international poverty line, including 18% of Syrian refugees in Jordan.³ In contrast, livelihood assistance remains one of the least funded sectors in comparison with shelter and other basic needs, despite the majority of the refugee population having lost their jobs and daily work due to the imposed COVID-19 restrictions. This has led to almost a double increase in early marriages, especially in the refugee camps.⁴

TURKEY:



Turkey has witnessed an increased level of tensions between the refugee and host community population over the last months. The political instability in Afghanistan and the pressure it puts on host countries, such as Turkey, has exacerbated these tensions, even leading to physician violence and hindered access to basic services for the refugees. On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of Interior announced several measures restricting the freedom of movement of Syrians under the Temporary Protection system which has further increased the level of mistrust and fear of deportation amongst them, especially those unregistered, in Ankara. The two days later announcement from the Ankara Provincial Directorate of Migration Management, announcing that 200 hundred refugee families' houses would be demolished the following day, worsened the livelihoods of the refugees living there. As a response to this action UNHCR together with local refugee actors, including World Vision's partners in Ankara, have been closely discussing and coordinating with the authorities to find a dignified and safe way in processing the situation in the best interest of the refugees affected.

Although the situation was positively addressed and solutioned, the situation of refugees in Turkey remains uncertain, especially as the political narrative has encouraged more conservative sentiments towards this group, including lower possibility to enter the country, and secure registration as reported by local refugee groups.

¹ Registered Persons of Concern Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Jordan factsheet, 1st September 2021

² Ibid 1

³ Refugee, Resilience and Regional Plan - Progress Report 2021, October 2021; p.3. Accessible online here: https://www.3rpsyria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021_3RP_Progress_Report.pdf

⁴ Based on observations from the World Vision protection team in Azraq camps and in urban areas, in Jordan.

Success story from Jordan: Nine-Year-Old Boy Practices Personal Hygiene Habits With Elmo

Jordan – one of the largest refugee host countries in the region – deals with significant water, sanitation and hygiene challenges. The country generates 2.2 million tons of solid municipal waste per year, growing annually by 5% of which only 7% is recycled or salvaged, mainly by the informal sector.⁵ This has become a serious matter of concern for the refugee camps, like the Azraq Refugee Camp which hosts more than 36,000 Syrian refugees.⁶



Photo: © World Vision, Jordan, 2021.

Waste, if improperly managed, can have long-term impacts on both the environment and the community, even for those residing far from the site of disposal. It is estimated that 95% of the plastic packaging that enters the economy is discarded as waste, and 32% of this waste escapes municipal waste management.⁷

Aid organisations like World Vision took the necessary steps to ensure this need is addressed for the most vulnerable refugees in the camp, and decided to establish a well-structured health sanitation system. The system protects thousands of Syrians living there, ensuring safe disposal of solid waste⁸, water networks linked to the shelters, and access to dignified toilets⁹. The sanitation situation is carefully monitored in Azraq Refugee Camp in order to fit decent human living standards.

In addition to the health sanitations systems put in place, raising awareness sessions on personal hygiene are provided to 100 girls and boys as part of the same project run by World Vision – ELO WASH Base Funds+ Sesame Street. Eight-year-old Saif is one of the refugee children currently enrolled in this project. He goes to World Vision's Peace Centre twice a week where he loves learning about personal hygiene – how to stay clean, wash his hands, brush his teeth and more.

"Every time I learn something new, I teach it to my family. I have two sisters, and I show them how to properly wash their hands to keep the germs away." Saif also learns about rationing water use, social distancing, COVID-19 prevention, the importance of wearing a mask in these circumstances, and about the safe disposal of plastic, trash and other solid waste. Saif was also proudly wearing a mask during the interview saying, "I wear a mask to keep myself, family, and you safe, so that when I cough, I do not spread germs."

⁵ UNDP Jordan, Success Story "New Solid Waste Recovery and Recycling Contract Improves Livelihood of Waste Pickers in Jordanian landfills"; available online here: http://www.moen.gov.jo/ebv4.0/root_storage/ar/eb_list_page/20022_jordan_waste_v02_rc_web.pdf

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/unhcr-jordan-factsheet-azraq-refugee-camp-july-2020#:text=Azraq%20is%20home%20to%2036%2C874%20have%20disabilities%20in%20the%20camp>

⁷ MacArthur, Ellen, Dominic Waughray, and Martin Stuchey. "Rethinking Plastics, Starting with Packaging" World Economic Forum, 2016

⁸ <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/eu-in-action/stories/green-centre-azraq-refugee-camp-syrian-refugees-clear-streets-brighter>

⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/jordan%20UNHCR%20Factsheet%20Azraq%20Sep%202020.pdf>

COVID-19 response overview

People reached 55,136
including **29,326 children**

Syria: 54,740 beneficiaries including 29,325 children¹⁰

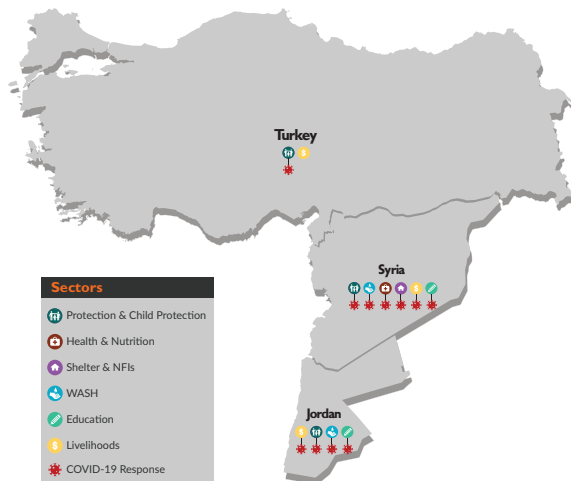
Jordan: 319 Syrian beneficiaries

Turkey: 77 beneficiaries (refugees and local community members)

COVID-19 response key stats

As of 23 September 2021

Jordan: 817,487 cases, 806,842 recovered, 10,645 deaths
Turkey: 6,960,297 cases, 6,897,773 recovered, 62,524 deaths
Syria: 31,741 cases, 29,569 recovered, 2,172 deaths
NWS: 76,632 cases, 75,321 recovered, 1,311 deaths



COVID-19 vaccine inequality extends beyond the gap between wealthier and poor countries¹¹



Out of the 1,914 refugees and IDPs represented (in 339 interviews) in Brazil, Colombia, the DRC, Jordan, Peru, Turkey, Uganda, and Venezuela, only one refugee in Uganda reported receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.



47% of respondents thought they were not eligible for a vaccine or did not know if they were eligible.



68% of the surveyed refugees and IDPs had not heard of any plans for vaccinations in their communities.

COVID-19 surge in Syria¹²

The number of reported confirmed COVID-19 cases in NWS has reached 76,632 with 1,311 confirmed COVID-19 related deaths. This is a three-fold increase of cases in September in comparison with July 2021. The rapid increase has been recorded since mid-August with the number of cases increasing by an average of 30 positive cases a day in July this year to an average of 1,750 by the end of September. The numbers were much higher at the beginning of the month, but due to limited testing capacity this affected the adequate surveillance of actual COVID-19 cases in NWS. With a decimated health system, and exacerbated needs across the response, there is a significant gap in COVID-19 response due to the recent surge in cases because of the Delta variant in NWS. Oxygen supplies, capacity expansion, intensive care units (ICU), Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), case management, referral services, and PCR testing kits are the main components to be urgently scaled up and improved in order to cope with the increasing incidence rate of COVID-19.

Other important COVID-19 facts and figures from NWS:

- The positivity rate of tested patients admitted has been over 60% which indicates insufficient testing and uncontrolled community transmission.
- Daily testing positivity ranges between 53% and 61% since mid-September, in comparison with 6% over the month of June.
- Approximately 13% of newly registered cases reside in over crowded displacement camps.
- More than half of those admitted for COVID-19 treatment are men (59%), young adults.
- Within the health facilities supported by WV through local partners a major oxygen supply shortage due to the increased demand and limited capacity is reported.
- Under the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance SPACE II program, within the last three weeks bed capacity at two hospital-based isolation units has been tripled from 25 to 75. Both health facilities are over 107% of occupancy as of 6 October 2021.
- COVID-19 Community Treatment Centres (CCTCs) in NWS are overwhelmed.
- The Government of Turkey has enforced a new directive that stopped the provision of temporary residence cards to Syrians crossing the border in search of medical services that are not available in NWS such as cancer treatments.

Story from Turkey: The Light at the End of the Tunnel

Tuba* and her family's ten-day long journey to safety was anything but easy. They stayed at the Turkish border for two weeks hoping they would be allowed inside the country. After many failed attempts due to regulations, security, and missing legal documents, they finally succeeded in getting into Turkey. At the beginning, they had to stay with a family member because they did not have any money to rent a house or a room in a modest hotel.



Photo: © Turkish Red Crescent (WV partners in Turkey), 2021.

Tuba and her family did not have any official documents upon their arrival. That made everything much harder - even going to buy groceries was inconvenient for them. "Moving around was extremely difficult as we did not have any official identification documents, so we had to issue legal documents," says Tuba.

A relative of theirs helped them issue identification documents which helped Tuba's husband find a job in construction. This was the first ray of hope they had seen in months.

Tuba used to be a kindergarten teacher back home. "I loved my job, I miss my job, I used to teach kids about colours, shapes and numbers," she shares. She has four children and she made sure to enroll them in school.

"Our relatives were kind enough to let us stay with them through this difficult time, but it was not easy... we felt like a burden, when our relatives bought diapers for our daughter we felt embarrassed, we could not cover our own basic needs," said Tuba. The landlord was a kind man who offered them a helping hand - he did not ask for rent fees; they only had to pay the electricity and water bills.

Through neighbours and friends, Tuba heard about the Turkish Red Crescent's (TRC) **Socioeconomic Empowerment Program** while she was searching for a job to provide extra income for her family of five. She decided to join the courses offered by TRC and she is much happier now. Tuba really feels that she has found herself in this project: "I recommend other women, who want to find themselves, build their confidence and be productive to apply for this programme," Tuba shares enthusiastically. She manages to produce many food products such as pickles and olives. This initiative really helped her support her family.

¹⁰ Government of Syria controlled areas data is not included as information is not available at the date of publishing.

¹¹ High Risk, Low Priority report https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/WRD%20report_final%20with%20profiles.pdf

¹² World Vision Syria Response, COVID-19 Update-North West Syria, October 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.



4,397

people reached with education activities



12,303

Syrian people were provided with protection interventions



604,309

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



128,282

Syrian people were provided with emergency basic health care services and nutrition



2,255

Syrian provided with lifesaving Cash for Work (CFW)/Community Infrastructure Improvement Project (CIIP) income opportunities



1,724

Syrian provided with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and income generating opportunities

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.



11,558

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



9,588

Syrian girls and boys inside Syria were provided with psychosocial support sessions



1,724

Syrian women and girls inside Syria received vocational training

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



10,660

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



42,601

Syrian people received hygiene and COVID-19 supply kits and other hygiene promotion activities to reduce the spread of the virus



78,153

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

Response highlights

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



1,389

Jordanians and Syrian refugees in Jordan were provided with cash-for-work opportunities through dams protection projects



188

Syrian refugees benefitted from livelihood opportunities through a solid waste management project in Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan



1,724

Syrian women and girls inside Syria received vocational training

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



144

Syrian boys and girls in Jordan were provided with remote remedial education



109

Syrian refugee children attended Kindergarten (Early Childhood Education and Development) in Jordan



32

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.



5,327

people including 2,327 children received essential primary healthcare services in Syria



14,611

people inside Syria including 6,592 children were admitted to hospitals



1,020

babies were delivered in Syria

Story from NWS: Layan* is a Shining Star

Layan* is one of the millions of Syrian children who are out of school in Syria¹³. Before the conflict started, Layan had a peaceful life, and many friends at school. Soon after the war broke, she started losing those she loved, one by one. Layan had a sister and a grandmother who passed away due to the shelling and bombing of their town. The worst was when she lost her father soon after, and her performance at school deteriorated as a result. She isolated herself from the rest of the family and felt very sad.

"I used to live a happy life back then in my small town until the shelling started and many of my relatives passed away," says Layan. "The shelling used to frighten me... The sound of helicopters filled the town and we had no place to stay" she said.

Layan and her family are now displaced in a camp and living in a tent where it gets extremely cold in the winter. They cannot afford any heating to keep the tent warm. *"We live in a small tent and our living conditions are very challenging and difficult," says Layan.*

Layan and her mother came to the 'Educational Tent', a programme run by World Vision's partner, Syria Relief, to help Syrian internally displaced children make up for their lost education. *"I had no friends until I started going to the 'Educational Tent'. I want to go there every day. Whenever I see the tent, the fear inside of me goes away," shares Layan enthusiastically.*

Layan attends maths, reading classes, science and psychological support sessions. She feels happier and more relieved after attending the psychological support groups and the educational programme available in her community.

Her mother is also happy to see how Layan's mood has improved. *"Despite all the hardships my daughter has been through, she has managed to overcome them through this programme. She now goes to school and has friends there; I am very proud of her," said Layan's mother.*

The 'Secure Education' programme was able to reach 2,500 war-affected children like Layan and offer them a chance to not miss out on their education. This programme aims to improve children's well-being and increase their engagement and interaction with others. Syria Relief conducts awareness-raising sessions for adults on child protection issues, in addition to running Child-Friendly Spaces to support vulnerable children with overcoming the mental and physical hardships inflicted by more than 10 years of war.



Photo: © World Vision, Syria, 2021.

¹³ According to [UNICEF](#), 2.4 million children are out of school inside Syria, 40% of them are girls.

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

DONORS



World Vision Syria Response would like to thank the WV Partnership's network of Support Offices for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the Response's private donors.



For more information, please visit
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