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

*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds

World Vision Syria Response reached

- **635,931** beneficiaries
  - **SYRIA:**
    - Women: 164,220
    - Girls: 154,997
    - Men: 163,065
    - Boys: 153,649
  - **JORDAN:**
    - Women: 9,652
    - Girls: 13,317
    - Men: 9,972
    - Boys: 15,302
  - **TURKEY:**
    - Women: 319
    - Girls: 453
    - Men: 213
    - Boys: 503

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**
- 46,443 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 Za’atari 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 2022. 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 (NWS) 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 Idleb, and GoT interest to remove YPG/SDF (Kurdish-led 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 Darāa 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 Sweda 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. To date, only 14,881 new Syrians have been registered by UNHCR for this year. 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 has only 14% funded. Increased poverty, particularly, pushed many under the international poverty line, including 18% of Syrian refugees in Jordan. 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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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 waste, water networks linked to the shelters, and access to dignified toilets. The sanitation situation is carefully monitored in Azraq Refugee Camp in order to fit decent human living standards.

In addition to the health sanitation 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 Fund+ Sesame Street. Eight-year-old Saf 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.”

Saf 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. Saf 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.”

COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 response overview

People reached 55,136 including 29,326 children

Syria: 54,740 beneficiaries including 29,325 children

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 countries

Out of the 1,914 refugees and IDPs represented (n=339 interviews) in Brazil, Colombia, the DRC, Jordan, Peru, Turkey, Uganda, and Venezuela, 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 Syria

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 overcrowded 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.

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.

* Government of Syria controlled areas data is not included as information is not available at the date of publishing.
10 High Risk, Low Priority COVID-19 response key stats: NWS: Syria: 31,741 cases, 29,569 recovered, 2,172 deaths; Turkey: 8,960,297 cases, 6,897,773 recovered, 62,524 deaths; Jordan: 817,487 cases, 806,842 recovered, 10,645 deaths. 
11 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.

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
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 Syria. Before the conflict started, Layen had a peaceful life, and many friends at school. Soon after the war broke, she started losing those she loved, one by one. Layen 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 Layen. "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 Layen.

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 Layen 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 Layen’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 Layen’s mother.

The ‘Secure Education’ programme was able to reach 2,500 war-affected children like Layen 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.

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

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