

Syria Response Situation Report 2021

World Vision Syria Response | January to December 2021

World Vision Syria Response managed

Syria: USD 26,143,306.00 → 14 donors, 17 projects
Jordan: USD 6,699,336.00 → 11 donors, 16 projects
Turkey: USD 1,679,263.00 → 2 donor, 2 project
Total: USD 34,521,905.00

January to December 2021 Expenses

*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds



Map of World Vision Syria Response offices (WVSR)

World Vision Syria Response reached

2,230,077 beneficiaries

Women 701,846 **Girls 504,998**
Men 519,627 **Boys 503,606**

JORDAN

60,272 beneficiaries
Women 10,414 **Girls 19,406**
Men 10,428 **Boys 20,024**

TURKEY

6,676 beneficiaries
Women 3,557 **Girls 598**
Men 1,875 **Boys 646**

SYRIA

2,163,129 beneficiaries
Women 687,875 **Girls 484,994**
Men 507,324 **Boys 482,936**

Humanitarian Advocacy Impact

Over the last year, World Vision Syria Response has worked to improve and influence humanitarian policies and programs that positively affect millions of lives affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria targeting both displaced and host communities. As 2021 marked a decade of conflict and war for Syria's children, World Vision has dedicated its advocacy and external engagement efforts to achieve the following, through public and private influencing:

1. Ensuring access to the most vulnerable population on the move across northern Syria is authorized and aid is unhindered;
2. Strengthening evidence-based advocacy on critical sectors across Turkey, Jordan and Syria; mainly around access to critical protection and education services for Syrian refugees in Turkey, provision of education for out of school children with disabilities in Jordan and early childhood development; and the cost of war for Syrian children and durable solutions for them.
3. Scaling-up the reputation, branding and influence of No Lost Generation initiative with donor governments at regional and global levels to complement the Refugee, Resilience, Regional Plan.
4. Addressing operational challenges through regular engagement with aid actors at local level, including faith leaders and local authorities.

Our advocacy efforts have reached 7.6 million children, 5 million just inside Syria through 20 advocacy impacts at policy, programming and funding levels with key donors and stakeholders across the three countries.

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: **14.6 million** people, over **6.5 million** children
- 👤 **4.2 million** Syrians in need live with disabilities
- 🎒 **At least 2.4 million** children in Syria are out of school but the numbers are believed to be much higher
- 🍲 **More than half** of the Syrian population is now estimated to be food insecure

- 👤 **798,000** 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

- 👤 **673,18** registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, **49%** are children
- 🏠 **80.5%** of Syrian refugees live outside camps in urban areas
- 🏠 **43,962** Syrian refugees are staying at Azraq Refugee Camp, **18%** are under five years old
- 🏠 **80,543** 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

- 👤 **3,739,240** 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:



Eleven years in, conflict continues to wreak havoc across the whole of Syria with civilians suffering from extreme levels of insecurity and indiscriminate attacks. Crime, safety, and deteriorating socio-economic conditions further contribute to the growing death toll, which has reached an estimated 2,000 people in the first months of last year alone. Conflict and escalations persisted throughout 2021 across all contexts in Syria. Geopolitical rivalries at global and regional levels contributed to relative stability and comparative reduction of incident volumes year-over-year. Nevertheless, risks across Syria remain high and context – far from predictable.

This instability is pushing medical staff to leave the country too – half of the specialized health staff have fled according to the Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022. Airstrikes, artillery shelling, localized fights, and improvised explosive devices continue to endanger everyone, especially children who pay the highest price. Reaching them and the most vulnerable populations remains a challenge as humanitarian access further restricts aid delivery to all those who are in dire need of assistance. These obstacles are not limited to the physical constraints; such as risks from conflict activities or environmental hazards. They are further complicated by international sanctions, financial restrictions and requirements by local authorities.

In northern Aleppo, reduced threat of direct Government of Syria (GoS) intervention fuels inter and intra Armed Opposition Groups clashes despite attempts to reduce conflict through different formations. Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) continues its consolidation of power in Idklib, contributing to the relative criminal stability amidst challenges to humanitarian access. Turkey's threat of intervention in multiple areas in northern Syria (west, central, and east) has prompted temporary Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)-GOS rapprochement, highlighting again fragility of the status quo there. In the south, there are no prospects for resolving conflict between GOS and forcibly "reconciled" elements. As fundamental grievances remain unaddressed, fighting and targeted assassinations remain unabated.

On the other hand, COVID-19 has added another layer of vulnerabilities to Syrian children and their families, and the Syrian population is on the brink of collapse into the worst food insecurity crisis so far as people lost employment and income generation activities – the food basket prices have increased with 97% between December 2020 and 2021. This has a crippling effect on children's ability to continue education and learning, leading to an increase in child labour and forced early marriage incidents as parents and caregivers see no other option. 41% of average household income is now spent on food, far exceeding any other spending on basic services, but the real solution is in the hands of those who have the power to stop the fighting and end the violence against girls, boys, men and women.

In foresight, delivery of aid remains challenged by conflict-related risks, criminality, and humanitarian access challenges alike. Conflict dynamics remain unpredictable, as intra- or inter-state developments can quickly upset fragile local balances, and further deteriorate the present state of affairs. Social and economic hardships dramatically elevate criminal risks, increase recruitment base for terrorist groups, and further complicate already challenging access to those in need. Finally, Humanitarian Access remains impacted by: unreliability of UN Cross-Border Resolution, donor fatigue, cross-border and local bureaucratic realities, attempts of interference, and unpredictable changes in areas of control.

JORDAN:



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

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

TURKEY:



The country remains the largest refugee hosting country in the world with 3,643,769 Syrian refugees estimated to be living in the country; 1.6 million are reported to be registered Syrian children. The actual numbers of Syrian refugees are much higher and those without a Temporary Protection Identification are the most marginalised and with limited or no access to basic care. After ten years since the first group of 252 Syrian refugees reached Turkey, the response to the refugee crisis has shifted from a moral responsibility to strengthened borders and increased controls. This also meant that countless Syrians were unable to cross and had to stay in makeshift camps, after the visa-free policy for Syrians was halted in 2016.

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

Several studies point to a high child labor risk among Syrian refugee children in neighboring countries.¹ Moreover, many of these child laborers work in strenuous and exploitative conditions,² with significant long-term adverse consequences as reported in the literature.³ Most of the Syrian child laborers do not attend school; for instance, in Turkey, less than 3% of child workers aged 12- 17 are enrolled in school. This implies that they might be trapped in poverty in the long run.⁴

A 13-year-old Boy's Determination to Overcome Displacement-induced Trauma

The displacement journey was heart-wrenching for the 13-year-old Mohammad. Finding a safe place to stay while the war was wreaking havoc among the communities, was like looking for a needle in a hay stack. Eventually, they settled down in a town in northern Syria, which is at the opposite side of a "real home", but at least it is a little safer. What home looks now for Mohammad and his family is a tent they had built on a random piece of land. Little did they know the owner of the land would threaten them for trespassing after all the hard work Mohammad's father and brother put into building this tent.



Mohammad* and his father next to the tent they live in. He hopes that one day he lives in a home where he does not have to worry about falling down on rocks and hurting himself © World Vision Syria Response.

"After a while I started seeing people who were internally displaced start building walls and installing roofs while we cannot even afford one brick," Mohammad shares with a whimpering voice.

The tent is in a dire condition, the lack of water and sanitation services made everything harder, and safe and clean toilets are a dream for Mohammad and his family. "We have no choice but to use the valley next to us as a sanitation service," says Mohammad. Living near a valley also causes water levels to rise during the winter: "We live next to black water; I do not want to come across as demanding, but we are literally flooded with dirty water every time it rains," adds Mohammad. The rugged grounds prevent Mohammad from playing outside and getting some fresh air. "One fall is enough to hurt anyone who is not careful and mindful of the pebbles and rocks," Mohammad explains.

The family's situation is even more complicated as they struggle to provide the basic necessities to their children, including the medical care Mohammad needs. He suffers from a medical condition called "growth failure" which affects the body's growth rates due to malnutrition. To get back on his feet and well, Mohammad needs specific medications which are hard to find or buy, when it's available in the pharmacy. "Whenever my medication is available at the clinic, I immediately get it. However, I receive an amount of money that covers a percentage of the medication whenever it is not available," Mohammad shares. He also has a wish he desperately hopes comes true one day - "I wish my height increases, I am 13-years-old and I don't like my age, I wish I can grow up like everyone else."

With the help of World Vision's implementing partner, Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) and funding from Global Affairs Canada, World Vision was able to provide Mohammad with the health services he needs, and provided him with insurance which covers 30% of his medical needs. Mohammad's growth and malnutrition are carefully monitored at the clinic. The clinic also provides health services to Mohammad's family. "It is a lot easier now, if, God forbid, one of my children became sick, I can take them to the doctor faster," tells Mohammad's father.

The Integrated Emergency Health, Protection and WaSH Response in Northwest Syria project ensures access to health services for Syrians like Mohammad, raises awareness on COVID-19 virus, and provides prevention materials such as disinfectants and other cleaning materials. World Vision's partner was able to reach almost 27,000 Syrians thanks to Global Affairs Canada's financial support.

¹ UNHCR, 2013; Save the Children, 2015; UNICEF, 2015; Habib et al., 2019; Maadad and Matthews, 2020; de Hoop et al., 2019.

² Habib et al., 2019; UNICEF, 2015; Küppers and Ruhmann, 2016; UNHCR, 2016.

³ See Baland and Robison (2000) and Beegle et al. (2009) for children's human capital accumulation; Emerson et al. (2017) for learning outcomes; O'Donnell et al. (2005) and Habib et al. (2019) for health outcomes; and Emerson and Souza (2011) and Beegle et al. (2009) for future labor market outcomes.

⁴ Kirdar et al. (2021) find that school enrollment rates drop for the same ages when paid employment rates rise among Syrian refugee boys in Turkey.

COVID-19 response overview

 **People reached 659,593**
including  **226,356 children**

 **Syria: 654,835 beneficiaries including 223,927 children**

 **Jordan: 4,396 beneficiaries including 2,429 children**

 **Turkey: 362 beneficiaries**

COVID-19 response key stats

As of 1 March 2022

Jordan: 1.69 million cases, **14,003** deaths

Turkey: 14.7 million cases, **97,521** deaths

Syria: 55,329 cases, **3,114** deaths, **89.6%** reported recovered

NWS: 102.029 cases, **2,420** deaths, **94%** reported recovered



Key successes - COVID-19 operations

- Under the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) funded project, World Vision supports two dedicated hospital-based isolation centers (HBIC) providing case management for COVID-19. The project also targets the communities with messaging on COVID-19 through community health workers (CHW's) who are working on outreach under other current health projects. World Vision through the local partners, participated in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign covering 8 districts and 35 sub-districts across northwest Syria by undertaking a wide scale community mobilization campaign to encourage the uptake of the vaccine.
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) services to prevent/slow COVID-19 have also been expanded to ensure access to safe and consistently available water, handwashing facilities, hygiene and cleaning supplies in institution settings, such as schools and mosques, and within 24 non-health care facilities. Additionally, part of the COVID-19 response, World Vision has provided water supplies. Together with our implementing partner, World Vision supplied around 38,000m3 of water (35L/person/day) to around 13,550 internally displaced people in 8 camps in northwest Syria, with the support of the Japan government funds.
- World Vision also supported the set-up of two new routine vaccination sites to support the immunization of children and women in northern Syria; also, equipping the sites with human resources - vaccination teams.



Doctors providing care and support to internally displaced Syrians at a COVID-19 hospital in Northwest-west Syria. The COVID-19 response project is funded by the Disaster Emergency Committee. © Syrian Expatriate Medical Association

Response highlights

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.



25,203

Beneficiaries received Awareness on GBV



51,179

Beneficiaries received Awareness on Child Protection



2,258

vulnerable women were provided with vocational training



41,345

PSS support sessions were provided to women and children



246

PSS support services were provided to GBV survivors



334,511

Persons living with disabilities (PWD) were reached with essential services, including 151,290 children with disabilities (CWD)



133

Adults received Training in Case management



1,023

Case management services were provided

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



282,790

beneficiaries were provided with Water Supply Services



14,159

beneficiaries were provided with Water trucking



179,827

beneficiaries were provided with Solid waste management services



163,823

beneficiaries were reached through hygiene promotion activities



214,140

beneficiaries received hygiene kits to protect themselves from COVID-19



279,956

beneficiaries were able to get access to improved sanitation services

Response highlights

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



2,408

community members received technical or vocational training



115,668

people benefited from cash based humanitarian assistance



917

community members participated in cash for work programs



2,408

beneficiaries were supported to start a small business

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



2,512

children received supplies of school stationeries



884

children benefited from Early Childhood Education (ECE) services



1,283

children were provided with remedial education



4,993

children benefited from School Rehabilitation/Renovation



2,346

children benefited from newly set-up temporary classrooms

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



484,260

masks distributed in health facilities supported by local partners



59,256

beneficiaries received health services for hospitalization



103,372

beneficiaries received primary health care consultations



24,483

beneficiaries were provided with tailored counseling on IYCF



292

children under 5 were admitted/received treatment of Severe or Moderate Acute Malnutrition



82

outpatient & inpatient health facilities were supported

Syrian refugees in transit, waiting for a prosperous future

Coming originally from Aleppo in Syria, Mohammed, 49, a father of eight currently lives in Irbid city, northern Jordan. The family arrived in Jordan in March 2014 and stayed in Za'atari Refugee Camp for one day before moving to Irbid where two of the children were born. "I chose Jordan as a destination to head to because my brother lives there and because it is an Arab country and shares the same traditions and culture. I am convinced of this decision and I find life very decent here," says Mohammed. His brother is married to a Jordanian and was able to sponsor him and allow the family to leave the camp. Unfortunately, this is not the case for over 70,000 Syrians who are still stuck in the camp.

Currently, the 49-year-old father is a daily wage worker and he is able to take on any available job that has to do with construction, painting or installing jepsen boards. When he is working, his financial situation is by far better than when he is relying only on aid from international aid agencies. The family currently receives food vouchers by the World Food Programme (WFP) that are equivalent to 23 Jordanian Dinars (\$USD 32.5) per family member per month. They also receive a total of 155 JODs (\$USD 110) on a monthly basis from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). "It would make our lives easier if we can have more cash assistance so we can buy things that we wish to have," says

Mohammed. The family lives in a medium-sized home with a spacious garden, located in the suburbs of Irbid city. The house does not have much furniture except for mattresses, cushions and tables for people to sit on. Mohammed pays 130 JODs (\$USD 183) for rent including the bills every month.

Just like any Syrian refugee living in Jordan, refugees are registered in the resettlement scheme whereby UNHCR proposes that a family takes a certain country as their new home, and it is up to them to approve or reject the proposition. Mohammed was offered to move to the United States and he was approving of it and so did his children. "I am very optimistic of this move, I want my children to continue their education in the US since it will be strong. I want to work in construction there, too," says Mohammed with an utterly clear smile on his face, hopeful that the next chapter will be even better for him and his family. "I have a feeling we will receive the call from UNHCR by end of this year," concludes Mohammed.

Mohammed is one of the fortunate ones who were offered the chance to move to the US, but more than 579,000 Syrian refugees are still in need of resettlement and less than 2 per cent of Syrian refugees had their cases submitted last year, according to UNHCR data. On a global level, Syrians remain the largest refugee population in need of resettlement and giving people like Mohammed the chance not only to be protected but to start up a new life in societies that support inclusion.



Mohammed, a Syrian refugee living in Jordan arrived in 2014. He and his children were offered the chance to move to the United States of America. Mohammed hopes that his children can receive the education they deserve and build the future they dream of. © World Vision Syria Response

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

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