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Five Years: A Growing Syrian Refugee Crisis

- At least 7.5 million Syrian children are in need of humanitarian aid across the region.
- An estimated 86,000 children younger than 5 are acutely malnourished.
- Attacks on hospitals have left only 43 percent of Syrian hospitals functional and half the total number of certified doctors have fled the country.
- In the first half of 2015, more than 650 grave violations against children were documented, nearly three-quarters of which were killing and maiming.

Millions of Syrian and Iraqi families are tragically stuck—desperately trying to survive in a vulnerable state of abject limbo. They have been uprooted from their homes, livelihoods, churches, schools, and communities—some for as long as five years.

For these children and families, “normal life” has essentially disappeared. Instead they are temporary guests in a foreign land where they don’t yet understand their human rights, and where adults have scarce access to jobs, while their children may or may not have access to school.

Local churches in Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan are striving to meet the multitude of needs these families face, from the physical issues of food, shelter, clothing, and medical care, to the psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs resulting from the horrors of war. Many have witnessed the murder of family members and survived the brutality of intense violence. All have endured the sudden loss of home, connection, and community.

There are 6.6 million people displaced within Syria, 3.3 million displaced in Iraq, more than one million in Lebanon, and 630,000 in Jordan. Clearly, local churches cannot take on this effort without help.

World Vision has established a fund—the Equipping Churches to Serve Refugees Fund—to help church leaders and congregations in Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan to provide effective, relevant, compassionate, and culturally-sensitive care for displaced children and families.

Please prayerfully consider partnering with us as we reach out with the love and mercy of Christ to children and families who are in an overwhelming state of waiting and longing for their lives to return to some sense of normal.

OUR WORK WITH LOCAL CHURCHES SPANS TWO DECADES

- *We help families prepare for winter weather with warm socks, shoes, and coats.*
- *We help to provide nourishing food for children and families.*
- *We focus on the needs of children.*

Having witnessed brutal violence and radical changes in their day-to-day lives, children are exhibiting symptoms of extreme anxiety and distress, including problems with their speech and an inability to concentrate. Access to formal and nonformal education, and all that goes with it—structure, socializing with peers, adult supervision, time for play, recreation, and exercise—are all crucial for their well-being.



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PRAYERS FOR REFUGEES

Pray for peace. Pray for wisdom and effectiveness for those working to end the war, both in Syria and around the world.

Pray for welcome. Pray that refugees will find welcome and protection as they flee from the misery of the war.

Pray for hope. For refugees who have been far from home for years, pray for a sense of God's provision and His perfect kingdom to come.



A FUND TO FIT THE CONTEXT

The Equipping Churches to Serve Refugees Fund allows our work with local church partners to adapt to urgent needs and changing priorities—a flexibility that is critical in such a volatile environment. In addition, for areas with more stability, the fund supports strategic planning for longer-term initiatives. We collaborate with trusted church partners who are deeply committed to serving the displaced people in their midst. Believers—many of them refugees—will serve as teachers, relief workers, and peacemakers in their communities.

In the first phase of the Equipping Churches to Serve Refugees Fund, your gift supports the work of local churches serving displaced people in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, where our partners already have begun this work. Later, the fund may support work elsewhere in the region—anywhere Syrians and Iraqis have fled and can be reached by local churches.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The initial goal for our Equipping Churches to Serve Refugees Fund is to raise \$4 million for 12 months of work by local church partners to serve people displaced by war in Syria and Iraq. Your gift will empower local churches to serve displaced Christians and other refugees longing to return home.

- With \$40,000, local churches can provide warm clothing—including socks, shoes, and coats—for 500 refugee families.
- Working through local churches, \$50,000 can provide food for 1,875 refugee children for one month.
- \$88,000 can support 200 out-of-school refugee children with access to formal and nonformal education services through local churches for six months.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND YOUR PRAYERS

We have the privilege, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to reflect God's love and to **be the global church** by helping local churches serve people in their immediate communities. May God bless you!



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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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