

Syria Response Situation Report

World Vision Syria Response | June and July 2021

World Vision Syria Response managed

Syria: USD 1,884,962.02 → 16 Donors, 12 projects
Jordan: USD 1,164,144.26 → 2 donors, 2 projects
Turkey: USD 261,958.98 → 11 donors, 14 projects
Total: USD 3,311,065.26 by country in Q1 of 2021

*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds



World Vision Syria Response reached

297,785 beneficiaries

Women 73,758 **Girls 83,662**
Men 58,650 **Boys 81,715**

SYRIA

252,923 beneficiaries

Women 64,071 **Girls 71,059**
Men 49,251 **Boys 68,542**

JORDAN

25,188 beneficiaries

Women 8,915 **Girls 12,316**
Men 8,985 **Boys 12,872**

TURKEY

1,774 beneficiaries

Women 772 **Girls 287**
Men 414 **Boys 301**

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

669,497 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, **48.7%** are children

80.7% of Syrian refugees live outside camps in urban areas

38,063 Syrian refugees are staying at Azraq Refugee Camp, **20%** are under five years old

79,233 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

Updates: Humanitarian Advocacy Impact

Despite progress, COVID-19 continues to grow globally and has affected the people World Vision serves, especially in Syria where a new spike in cases was reported in June 2021. Due to the immediate health concerns in Syria, [World Vision Syria Response raised the alarm on the rapidly increasing positive cases](#) and continued advocating for more oxygen units, personal protective equipment and vaccination. Our humanitarian advocacy efforts concentrated on:

- understanding the impact of COVID-19 health crisis on refugees' access to basic services in Jordan and Turkey to adapt our programming and response. To this end, World Vision launched the report "[High Risk - Low Priority: Refugees Excluded from the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout](#)" together with key donors and local partners in Turkey such as ECHO, WHO, IGAM, IBC, DGMM etc.
- raising the visibility of the ongoing fighting and indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure, civilians, including children as the global negotiations between Member States on cross border access were taking place. See [here](#) and [here](#).
- scaling up our private and public advocacy calling for the continuation of cross border operations in Syria. This included [joint press statements](#), bilateral donor briefings, sector wide Member State briefings and regular information-sharing with relevant UN agencies and key stakeholders. As a result, the UN Security Council Resolution 2585 was adopted, extending the cross border access from Turkey into Syria for 12 months (6+6 months). Read [here](#) World Vision's statement in reaction to the UN decision.
- highlighting the devastating secondary impacts of COVID-19 on refugee girls who are forced into early marriage. This [webinar event](#) was part of the No Lost Generation Initiative and also marked the World Refugee Day 2021.
- strengthening our human rights based advocacy in humanitarian settings by:
 1. coordinating the first World Vision submission for the Universal Periodic Review in a fragile context (ie Syria) together with Syria Relief. This has reinforced our human rights based approach by tapping into the protection risks and incidents observed in Northwest Syria for the displaced girls and boys affected by the conflict.
 2. advocating for accountability and child appropriate mechanisms to put an end to the grave violations against children of Syria. This was a joint World Vision, Care International and Save the Children advocacy initiative part of the UN Human Rights Council Inter-agency dialogues with INGOs.

Situational overview for Northwest Syria, Jordan and Turkey

SYRIA:



A deterioration of the security situation in Northwest Syria resulted in civilian casualties, displacement, and negatively affected access to health services. This was perceived by security experts as tightly linked with the negotiations on cross border access in Northern Syria. Tit-for-tat bombings between Turkish/supporting forces and Kurdish groups resulyed. One of the bombings resulted in eight civilian casualties, affecting LRO and rendering one ambulance out-of-service.

- Indiscriminate attacks and frontline confrontations in Idleb caused casualties and large scale displacement. Repeated firing of rockets and artillery attacks in the southern countryside of Idleb resulted in 19 deaths between 6 and 23 June. These further escalated in July. According to data collected by REACH Syria's Camps and Displacement Unit, almost 20,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) left Ehsem and Ariha Sub-districts in June, half of which relocated to Atareb and Dana Sub-districts.¹ This was a second displacement for many of them since the Government of Syria's (GoS) last major campaign there in early 2020.
- Violent conflict in Northern Aleppo and a lack of resources negatively impacted healthcare provision. On 12 June, Al-Shifaa Paediatrics and Maternity Hospital in Afrin was hit by missiles. The attack resulted in civilian casualties and rendered the hospital out of service. Additionally, a rise in medicine prices and the shortage of specialized health workers were observed making medical care the most urgent need for the population.
- In southern Syria, armed escalation remains tense between GoS and opposition elements in Dara'a, amid a series of unsuccessful negotiations. GoS heavy-handed approach, including bombing and sniper attacks around the city; and uncoordinated AOG retaliatory attacks have been recurring with waves of escalation. High number of casualties were reported around Dara'a Governorate, including civilians. There is a potential for prolonged escalations in Dara'a, and possibility of these escalations spreading across southern Syria.
- Families' ability to purchase the basic needs has shrunk while negative coping mechanisms have increased, such as sending children to work, or marrying their children from an early age. 41% of the communities assessed by REACH report having resorted to early marriage to cover their most basic needs.²

JORDAN:



In line with the improved and stable COVID-19 situation in Jordan, in-person activities have resumed and UNHCR has reopened the registration centers which have been closed since COVID-19 crisis started. Jordan has been a leader in ensuring refugees and asylum seekers receive the medical care they need throughout the health crisis and during the vaccine rollout. Although access to vaccines has been available for those most at risk, World Vision data reveals hesitancy and lack of information are keeping refugees and the most vulnerable at further risk, across the country. There are currently more than 38,000 Syrian refugees in the Azraq camp where World Vision works and provides essential services. Only 5,153 of them were vaccinated (with the first dose, at least) and almost 13,000 others are registered to get the vaccine. Yet, Jordan is far from being able to ensure refugees' needs are met with only 16% of the needed funding available.³

TURKEY:



The humanitarian situation and access in Turkey remained stable over the months of June and July 2021. Yet, refugees and asylum seekers remain at risk of deportation mostly due to lack of legal assistance to file their documentation, and the respective administrative constraints. The risk of deportation is imminent for those without proper documentation, yet they also risk not being able to get access to basic services and assistance, including medical care. As a result, many resort to informal labour, working in dire conditions, with little remuneration and under constant fear of being deported. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the critical conditions in which refugees live and work. Based on the Inter agency Protection Sector⁴, 66% of the refugee respondents were working informally prior to the pandemic and the working status of 76% of respondents changed negatively during the pandemic (data collected in January 2021). This situation is expected to worsen, especially as families are struggling to cope.

Currently, Turkey has received only 36% of the needed funds to respond to the refugee and resilience needs (January - June 2021), most of which having been allocated to the education and protection services - 29% and 22.8% respectively. Most of the money under these two sectors - more than 60% - have been provided to the refugee pillar.⁵

¹ REACH Assessment Northwest Syria, June 2021. Available [here](#).

² Ibid 1

³ OCHA Middle East and North Africa Funding Update July 2021. Available [here](#).

⁴ UNHCR, "Turkey: Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Analysis Round 3", January 2021

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkey/turkey-2021-3rp-funding-update-q2-january-june-2021>

Success story from Jordan

Since October 2019, World Vision has been implementing a maintenance and protection project for the Kufranja Dam, located in Ajloun city, northern Jordan. The project, which is implemented by "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH" (GIZ), is funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ). It aims at reducing the effect of landslides within the dam facility by implementing landslides prevention techniques through provision of cash-for-work opportunities to vulnerable Syrian refugees and Jordanian host community members.



Photo: © World Vision, Jordan, 2021.

The Kufranja Dam project offers job opportunities and embraces social cohesion

Sana', 38, a Jordanian mother of two girls and a boy landed her first job ever working at the Kufranja Dam project. "I got the chance to know what it is like to have a job. I started waking up early, feeling more active and energised. I met with Syrian women and learnt what cooperation meant, too," she shares enthusiastically. Sana' is also very happy that she can go to an ATM machine and withdraw cash. "These are the fruits of my hard work," she adds.

Stories like that of Sana, are the stories for which the project managed to share a better life path.

Jordanian and Syrian workers have the chance to learn new skills

Just like in any job that one manages, people who were part of the project learnt different skills that they had not known before. For example, Khadeeja, 33, a Syrian mother of five girls, was also among those who benefitted from the project. "I learnt how to plant. I have never planted a sapling before and care for it. I learnt how to communicate with people," Khadeeja shares as she now dreams of how much her life has improved since she first joined the programme.

Livelihood opportunities prioritise welfare of families and combat school drop-outs

The dam project has contributed significantly to vulnerable families' economic situation and allowed them to cover essential expenses that they rely on in their daily lives. Khadeeja* was threatened by eviction as she could not pay for rent. Thanks to this project, she was able to keep a roof over her family's heads and pay for her children's expenses and education. She is also purchasing medicine for her husband who suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure. "I cannot not get medicine for him," adds Khadeeja. She wants to work. She has to as she constantly worries that her children might be forced to drop out of school if she can no longer pay for their tuition fees. She wants them to finish their education and reach high positions because they have big dreams. "I am terrified that one day I would not be able to let them study. I do not want them to be deprived of education just like I was," she tells us.

World Vision's Dams Protection project has supported 1,200 vulnerable Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities.

COVID-19 response overview

People reached 82,597 including 44,688 children

Syria: 82,597 beneficiaries including 44,688 children

Jordan: 171 Syrian beneficiaries

Turkey: 326 beneficiaries (refugees and local community)

COVID-19 response key stats

As of 23 August 2021

Jordan: 790,450 cases, 767,785 recovered, 10,308 deaths
Turkey: 6,234,520 cases, 5,724,382 recovered, 54,765 deaths
Syria: 27,003 cases, 22,309 recovered, 1,977 deaths
NWS: 31,453 cases, 23,806 recovered, 746 deaths

Story from Turkey



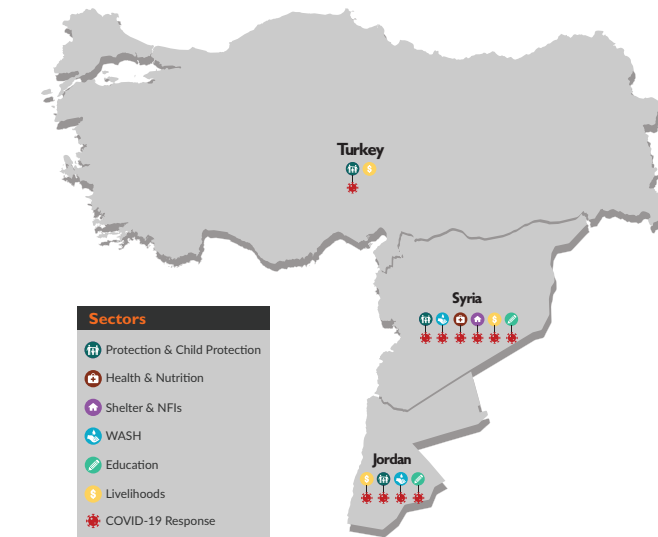
Photo: © The International Blue Crescent Relief and Development (IBC), Turkey, 2021.

Yahya*, 50, is one of the beneficiaries at International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation's (IBC) Info Hub. He was displaced twice inside Syria with his family before coming to Turkey in 2017, looking for safety. As the breadwinner of his family, he was the last person to flee the war. He currently lives with his wife, three sons, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren in Istanbul. "Being born in western Syria, I was someone who lived a good life with my family before the war," Yahya recalls.

Upon arriving in Turkey, Yahya applied for an identification document. The 50-year-old is happy to live in Turkey but limited opportunities on the labour market, especially since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, makes life more difficult. "No one wants to hire an old man. I would be much happier if we had a stable source of income. My children can barely sustain themselves," Yahya says.

During the pandemic, Yahya's sons lost their jobs. "The pandemic infected our minds before our bodies – we had no idea how we were going to pay the next month's rent," Yahya remembers the stressful situation. On top of everything, six months ago, Yahya tested positive for the virus, but thankfully his symptoms were mild. His family has access to basic disinfectants such as soap and detergents, but most days they cannot afford facemasks and hand sanitiser.

Things took a turn for the better when Yahya first visited World Vision's partner in Turkey, IBC. "IBC's Info Hub is very close to my house. I was happy when they



provided legal support to my daughter, who wanted to move to another city in Turkey with her husband," he shares. Through the Info Hub, Yahya also received help in accessing health services. After he was diagnosed with short-sightedness, he received special glasses that he could not have afforded otherwise. "I applied to many organisations for support, but IBC was the one that managed to solve my sight problem. This was a huge obstacle in my daily life, I am now able to handle everything a lot easier."

Yahya's mother has also managed to escape the war. She now lives in Lebanon, but Yahya has not seen her for over ten years. He misses the seaside walks he went on with his mother, and the old times. "If there hadn't been a war in Syria, we would never have left. The conflict forced us out, but Syria will always be a precious part of us," Yahya says.

Between December 2020 and April 2021, IBC teams have reached more than 2,200 people, including 247 children through World Vision's EU-funded project in Turkey.

Water scarcity in Syria

Syria is in the midst of a dire water crisis which is affecting access to drinking water, power generation and irrigation water for millions of Syrians. **The worst drought in seventy years⁶** has depleted water sources across the country and is already affecting Syrians' health, livelihoods and food security and potentially placing a strain on social cohesion. This crisis will lead to further humanitarian need, compounding the impact of more than ten years of conflict, displacement, and destruction, the COVID-19 pandemic and the collapse of the Syrian economy. Low precipitation is at the core of this water scarcity crisis. In Syria, precipitation decreased by 50% to 70%, depending on the governorate, while low snow and rainfall also impact water sources in Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. Water flows into the Euphrates River from Turkey – which has also experienced several seasons of poor rain – have progressively reduced over the past six months, falling from 500m³ per second in January to 214m³ per second in June⁷. Water scarcity in Syria also finds its origins in the destruction of infrastructure caused by the decade-long conflict. Syria has very dry, hot summers and relies heavily on water collected in river dams, lakes, wells and reservoirs during spring. In the rainy season of 2020/2021, water reserves were not adequately replenished, leading to water shortages even before the start of the dry season.

The water crisis has the potential to affect the whole of Syria, across all sectors, exacerbating the unprecedented humanitarian crisis⁸. Ten years of conflict, economic crisis and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have all reduced communities' ability to cope and increased humanitarian needs. At least 5.5 million people are at risk of having reduced access to drinking water while 3 million people risk reduced electricity access. In addition, 5 million have livelihoods that depend on agricultural production, including 1.3 million in areas close to the Euphrates river.⁹ The water crisis risks compounding: tensions over resources, diversion of already meagre income on the purchase of water and risky basic hygiene measures such as hand-washing that can help mitigate health risks, including the risk of catching COVID-19. This crisis must be dealt with swiftly, decisively and comprehensively to fend off an otherwise imminent worsening of the already catastrophic humanitarian situation. It is crucial to recognize that an emergency response is not enough, and that this problem requires a **multi-sector, Whole of Syria long-term, sustainable solution.**

⁶ According to MAAR. REACH, "Briefing Note: Humanitarian Situation Overview in Northeast Syria"
⁷ OCHA Euphrates Water Crisis & Drought Outlook, June 2021
⁸ According to "2020 Global Report on Food Crises", p.21, the number of food insecure people in 2019 was 6.6 million. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview of 2021, 12.4 million people are currently food insecure. That is an increase of 88%
⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syrian%20Arab%20Republic%20-%20Euphrates%20water%20crisis%20and%20drought%20outlook%20-%20as%20of%2017%20June%202021.pdf>

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.



7,935

people reached with education activities



675

Syrian people were provided with protection interventions



168,247

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



34,556

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



9,420

Syrian people with basic emergency shelter materials including tents, blankets, and winterization kits

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.



9,007

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



1,386

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



661

consultation sessions were provided to survivors of gender-based violence inside Syria



1,250

Syrian women and girls inside Syria received vocational training

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



125,405

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



188

Syrian refugees in camps in Jordan had Solid Waste Management services, including the collection, sorting and disposal of waste. Solid waste services were provided through a cash-for-work programme that provided refugees with employment opportunities



41,440

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



140,040

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.



135

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



171

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

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



884

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



47

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.



51,924

people inside Syria, including 29,835 children, received face masks



1,555

people including 301 children received essential primary healthcare services in Syria



6,496

people inside Syria including 1,892 children were admitted to hospitals



1,020

babies were delivered in Syria

Story from Northwestern Syria

Nearly 3.5 million Syrian children are out of schools – including 40 per cent of girls¹⁰. One day, Mazen* went to school with his friends and returned to the house at the end of a long tiring day to be reunited with his family at the dinner table. However, all of this normalcy changed in a blink of an eye; his school was bombed, his warm house became a cold place and the table that once gathered his loving family, could not bear a whiff of air or it would break. Mazen and his family were forced to abandon their home to seek safety. “We left our home with nothing on our backs, we were scared and I was in pain,” says Mazen.

Mazen, along with his parents and five siblings ended up in a camp in Northwest Syria. Their journey was far from easy as Mazen's father suffers from a foot disability; he cannot walk nor stand on it for too long.

This camp, which hosts more than 30 families (approx 150 to 200 people), offers some sense of safety to Mazen and his family. The living conditions inside the camp are harsh - this is surely not a place to be for Mazen. What is worse is that the family does not have much food to provide to the children, and they do not even have money to buy the bare necessities. This was changed thanks to aid agencies that provided Mazen and his family, as well as other community members, with food and a shelter to shield them from the cool winter nights and the summer heat. There are also volunteer groups inside the camp that provide additional support and help to the 200 displaced Syrians. Mazen's father says: “The volunteer groups have helped us, they made our suffering a little easier.”

Due to the ongoing Syrian war, Mazen was going through an education hiatus for almost a year, which caused him to miss out on crucial education. He was cut off from his friends and became isolated. World Vision's partner, Syria Relief, reached out to Mazen and later enrolled him in the programme. It is an educational tent where children are provided with psychosocial support and education. The programme had a positive impact on the young boy and contributed to his physical and psychological well-being. It also offers a chance for children to resume their education and continue their learning journey while being met with psychological support and care.

Mazen's father explains: “Mazen was very scared at the beginning about being displaced, he did not care about studying or going to school.” But when the 11-year-old boy enrolled in the ‘Educational Tent’ programme, and with the help of the psychological support team, he became a happy child. “I attend the educational tent run by Syria Relief, I go to psychosocial support sessions at the camp and I feel happy and safe. I even have friends to play with now,” says Mazen.

Through the ‘Secure Education’ project, World Vision's partner, Syria Relief was able to reach 2,500 displaced Syrian children. The programme that is run in multiple locations in northern Syria aims at providing remedial classes and child protection activities. Not only children benefit from this project, but also adults do. Syria Relief conducts awareness raising sessions for adults on child protection issues, in addition to running Child Friendly Spaces that specialise in children's cases that require the most attention and care.

¹⁰ UNICEF Press Release March 2021. Available online here: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/geneva-palais-briefing-note-situation-children-syria-after-ten-years-conflict>



Photo: © Action for Humanity, Northwest Syria, 2021.

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DONORS



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For more information, please visit wvi.org/syria-response

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