

## **SYRIA CRISIS**

### **#1 / END-OF-YEAR REPORT 2017**

#### **In Safe Hands**

By the time four-year-old Maria fled with her father from violence earlier this year, she had already seen too much violence. It was the overwhelming distress which drove their family to leave their home in Kirkuk. The children were distressed, and many stopped speaking for a week after each new death they witnessed on the streets.

When they arrived in a camp for displaced people, Maria fell ill. She was running a high fever and lost all strength. When she arrived at the World Vision clinic in the camp, she was listless and sat limply in the lap of her father.

For thousands of children and adults in refugee camps, accessing healthcare is a daily challenge, with a severe shortage of health professionals and funding for medication and supplies.

In World Vision clinics, children are able to access free, lifesaving treatment, mothers and pregnant women also receive immunisation, medicine and care.



“At the beginning, we visited another clinic but then it closed so we came here (to World Vision’s clinic), and it’s much better and we found treatment,” said Maria’s family, “They (the World Vision doctors) are helping us a lot. It’s free of charge, they treat us well.”

#### **Overview of Crisis**

As a result of the Syrian Crisis, countless children were forced to flee danger and violence. Many fled alone and unaccompanied and now live in temporary refugee settlements. They are among those most vulnerable who are likely to spend their entire childhood in a camp, and who would grow up knowing nothing else but war.

When the Syrian Crisis first broke out, displaced families fled across the borders of Syria into neighbouring countries. Millions sought refuge and protection in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and the



Kurdistan region of Iraq. Over the years, refugee settlements have grown. Turkey currently hosts the largest number of Syrian refugees and in Lebanon, about one in four people are Syrian refugees seeking help.

### Overview of WV humanitarian response

In 2017, World Vision continues to **impact more than 730,000 beneficiaries across the region**. Children are the heart of our response efforts in the region. We reach out to families made vulnerable by the Syrian Crisis by providing **clean water** supplies and **food vouchers** in Lebanon and Turkey, to running **school feeding and educational programmes** for refugee children in Jordan and Lebanon, to facilitating **basic healthcare services** for refugee families in South Syria and strengthening **child protection** initiatives all across the region.



### Highlights of WV humanitarian response

#### Regional Response

##### **Child Protection**

- Child-friendly spaces continue to run across the region, with those in Syria reaching approximately 2,209 children a month
- Women's and Girls' centres established to provide support to females made vulnerable by the crisis



Children benefiting from a World Vision early childhood care centre

##### **Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

- Provision of clean water and sanitation support in South Syria, and integrating such support with livelihood interventions
- Livelihood interventions are to be expanded to include improved irrigation techniques for farmers and seedling producers and water catchment activities for drought mitigation, securing their livelihoods in this interim period



Example of World Vision water trucking to refugee camps

##### **Health**

- Support of mobile health clinics which provide essential services to the trapped and vulnerable in Syria, especially women and children



Doctor from a mobile health clinic treating a child



### Aleppo, Syria:

In October 2016, an escalation of hostilities in Aleppo, Syria drove a new wave of internal displacement as civilians, including women and children, fled in search of safety elsewhere in Syria. Many of them were already impoverished from the years of conflict, and fleeing once again left them helpless and in need of urgent aid.

Working mostly with internally displaced people in the Aleppo and Idleb governorate in Syria, World Vision operational areas received more than 170,000 people in dire need. Our response reached about 107,049 beneficiaries across nine months.



**17,192 vulnerable beneficiaries** received Non-Food Items such as blankets, mattresses and baby kits



**79,804 internally displaced people** benefited from clean water and sanitation interventions



**8,946 people** benefited from healthcare service providers providing maternal and child health related aid



**Internally-displaced children** benefited from sensitisation efforts on child protection and psychosocial support

### Status of children

World Vision believes in the promise that the Syrian people continue to carry. Children are the heart of our response efforts in the region.

In the coming year, we will be supporting the rehabilitation of refugee children through feeding programmes, early childhood care and education, and psychosocial support, especially in Lebanon and Jordan and to support the emergency healthcare needs of children trapped in South Syria.



### Moving forward

In 2017, the world has convened repeated peace talks, mediating and urging for a sustained ceasefire. Donors with the will to help are wearing out, and aid is being cut as humanitarian agencies struggle to appeal for assistance. As of October 2017, World Vision impacts more than 730,000 beneficiaries across the region, but struggles to fill a shortage of 75% of funds needed to sustain its work.

We thank you for coming alongside us to serve children and families affected by this disaster. World Vision continues to be a frontrunner in the humanitarian response space, and we treasure your partnership which allows us to help those in greatest need.

To make a difference to more children struck by or are vulnerable to disasters and crises, please support The Survival Fund by World Vision Singapore, a way to allow us to stand in the gap while both bracing at-risk communities and providing relief to those recovering from disasters. To learn more, visit [www.worldvision.org.sg/disaster](http://www.worldvision.org.sg/disaster).

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