

# World Vision Syria Response Situation Report

January, February and March 2021

## World Vision Syria Response reached

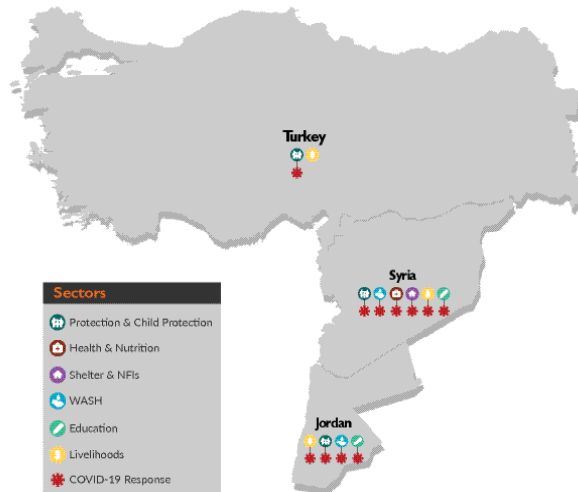
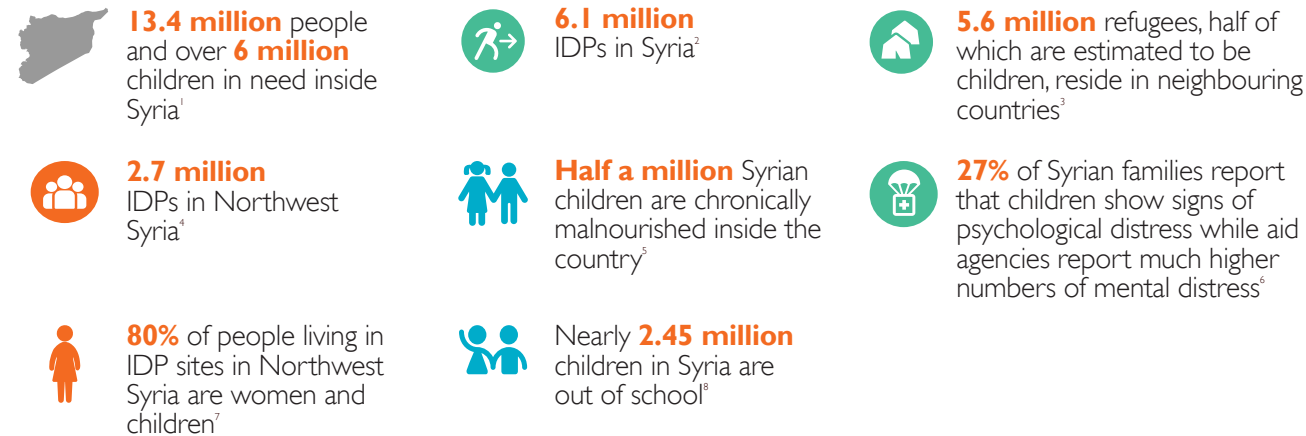


## World Vision Syria Response managed



\*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds

## Latest Figures across the Syria Response



## Updates

### Humanitarian Advocacy

From September 2019 to October 2020, World Vision Syria Response has reached more than 3.8 million children for whom World Vision contributed to more than one policy change/implementation across the three countries part of our response. World Vision Syria Response contributed to 13 humanitarian policies including the cross border resolution negotiations, COVID-19 related priority needs, access negotiations and protection of civilians, including women and children.

The work carried out by WWSR field, communications and advocacy teams has contributed to the largest impact growth across World Vision recorded so far.

### Syria V Brussels Conference

[The Syria V Brussels Conference](#), took place on the 29 and 30 March has ended with a cumulative total pledge of EUR 5.3 billion for 2021 and beyond (excluding the loans provided by the European Investment Bank, World Bank, governments etc). As donors fall short of the UN aid pledge goal of EUR 8.5 billion needed to respond to an increasingly food insecure population, the economic fallout across the region and the global health crisis affecting those at risk, the most. WWSR has been driving the advocacy efforts together with UNICEF as co-chairs of the No Lost Generation Initiative, to foster the debate on the impact of a decade of conflict on Syrian displaced children and what the international community, gathered for the Conference, should do to provide a future for them. The event "[What is next for Syria's children?](#)" focused on the Syrian young people's voices across the Middle East region as well as other distinguished officials from IrishAid, BMZ, European Commission, UNICEF and World Vision. Additionally, child protection and education have been prominently addressed in the United Nations and European Unions' joint consultation report ahead of the March Conference and in the [Co-chairs Statement](#) issued in the aftermath of Syria V Brussels Conference.

- See [here](#) the statement issued together with 36 other INGOs in the aftermath of the event.
- Read more of the No Lost Generation Advocacy brief ahead of the Syria V Brussels Conference, [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 2021 NEEDS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY - February 2021

<sup>2</sup> Syrian Arab Republic - Humanitarian Response Plan - December 2020

<sup>3</sup> 3RP Syria Crisis - In Response to the Syria Crisis - February 2021

<sup>4</sup> OCHA - SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - Recent Developments in Northwest Syria - Situation Report No. 26 - As of 26 March 2021

<sup>5</sup> Syrian Arab Republic - Humanitarian Response Plan - December 2020

<sup>6</sup> SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 2021 NEEDS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY - February 2021

<sup>7</sup> SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 2021 NEEDS AND RESPONSE SUMMARY - February 2021

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syrian-crisis>

## Situational Overview for Northwest Syria, Jordan and Turkey

### SYRIA:



Syria's fragility is increasing further, reaching new lows. Aid agencies witness severe shortages of bread and fuel in Government of Syria controlled areas. A spike of airstrikes against fuel infrastructure, but also border crossing and a hospital in Northwest Syria, has been noted as indiscriminate attacks continue to breach the ongoing ceasefire agreement. Meanwhile, returns discussions continue at a faster pace, as Denmark strips refugees of their protection rights, including residence permits. Other refugee host countries have also informed the wider international community of return plans, such as Lebanon, during the Syria Brussels Conference in March 2020.

**“Children born after the onset of the war in Syria are now 10 years old. They live in war and think it’s normal. When they hear a plane, they can distinguish if it’s a warplane or an airplane and can tell if they need to hide. For them, it’s a way of surviving.”**

Johan Mooij, World Vision Syria Response Director

### JORDAN:



Poverty levels are increasing across the country, as a result of worsening economic situation and unemployment rates (which is officially at 24%). This has also led to a spike in protests in March 2021. As the protracted conflict in Syria reaches a 10 year milestone, and COVID-19 secondary effects destabilize the country, poverty levels are increased by around 38 percentage points (p.p.) among Jordanians, and by 18 p.p. among Syrian refugees. Frustrations over economic hardship, COVID-19 lockdowns, emergency laws, and uncertain future were among the underlying causes of these protests. However, further increase in unemployment and poverty levels is likely; resulting in higher need for humanitarian aid not only to refugees hosted in Jordan, but also to the increasing portion of host communities. 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 Jordan Humanitarian Response Plan has been published and is available [here](#).

### TURKEY:



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 have 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.

### World Vision fights unemployment amongst youth in Jordan: Qais, 23, went from being a refugee student to a successful robotics trainer

Qais, 23, is one of the young people in his community who obtained his bachelor's degree but has been struggling to find a job after graduating from college. Since Qais and his family have fled the war in Syria, they have been living in the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Mafraq. After arriving in Jordan, Qais continued his education remotely and majored in Journalism and Media.

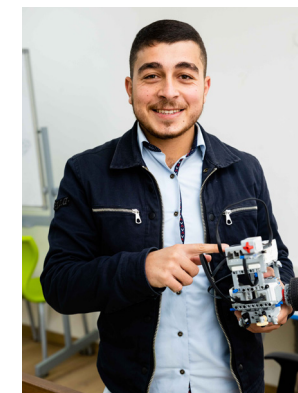


Photo: © World Vision, Jordan, 2021.

Along the way, Qais found out about World Vision's livelihood programme, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany (BMZ) through Facebook. A google form needed to be filled out by interested candidates, **“I was excited when I checked out the training courses that were offered by World Vision's partner, Zaha Cultural Centre. I've always been passionate about technology, and so robotics caught my attention,”** Qais says.

Qais applied and at the centre, he attended a career guidance course for the first time in his life: **“The career guidance greatly helped me in improving my personality and skills,”** he says. The sessions encouraged him to follow his personal interests. and he developed so well personally and professionally, Zaha Cultural Centre offered him a position as a robotics trainer, which has benefitted him in various ways. **“I was very surprised by this wonderful opportunity. Being a robotics trainer has allowed me to meet other friends and trainers in different fields. This really built my confidence and social skills, especially that it was very difficult to make friends within the limits of the camp,”** says Qais.

Access the full story [here](#).

## COVID-19 Response Overview

 **People reached 40,859 including  16,239 children**

 **Syria: 40,155 including 16,236 children**  
 **Jordan: 153 including 0 children**  
 **Turkey: 551 including 3 children**

The rapid worldwide spread of the COVID-19, an illness caused by a new strain of highly infectious coronavirus, has severely affected health and economic systems in many countries. The financial and health impacts of communities already impacted by the Syria crisis are devastating, particularly for those living in displacement/refugee camps and collective shelters in areas with limited healthcare. With the overarching goal to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact on vulnerable children and families in Syria, Turkey, and Jordan, World Vision Syria Response developed a holistic program framework to respond to the emerging needs of pandemic.

In Northwest Syria, WVSR has increased its COVID-19 programming, including providing isolation spaces and treatment of confirmed cases, hygiene promotion with a focus on COVID-19 prevention and protection services via WhatsApp as well as medical equipment for health facilities. In an integrated health and livelihood approach, WVSR is providing livelihood opportunities to local communities in the ion part of a production and the distribution of COVID-19 preventive masks.

### COVID-19 Response Key Stats

 **10,871** people, including **4,339** children attended hygiene awareness sessions on COVID-19

 **49,182** people, including **18,372** children received face masks

 **14,900** children received soaps

#### As of 14 April 2021

**Jordan:**  
672K cases, 611K recovered, 7.9K deaths

**Turkey:**  
3.96M cases, 3.42M recovered, 34.4K deaths

**Syria:**  
20.5K cases, 14.2K recovered, 1.3K deaths

**Northwest Syria:**  
21.5K cases, 19.5K recovered, 628 deaths

### Hatem\*: A Displaced Syrian, Medical Nurse and a COVID-19 Patient

Hatem, 28, is a medical nurse in an isolation hospital for COVID-19 infected patients run by SEMA, World Vision's local partner and funded by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). He caught the virus in a grocery shop close to his house: **"As part of the medical staff, I thought I had a high chance in getting the virus from my daily tasks at the hospital. But things worked differently and I caught it elsewhere,"** he said.

As soon as the symptoms appeared, Hatem isolated himself in his house most of the time. He needed to go to the hospital for a few days when his symptoms were at their peak, and then he went straight back home. Although his condition was not terrible, his body ached, he lost his tasting and smelling senses and suffered from shortness of breath.

In less than two weeks, Hatem's symptoms started fading away. Eventually, he was able to taste and smell but made sure to complete the 14 days of self-isolation. After that, he was able to get back to work. **"I am thankful to my colleagues in the hospital, who were constantly checking up on me through the phone. They guided me on the best practices that would relieve my symptoms,"** Hatem said and then, added: **"I hope that health services expand in northwest Syria as many people are suffering because of this life-threatening virus."**



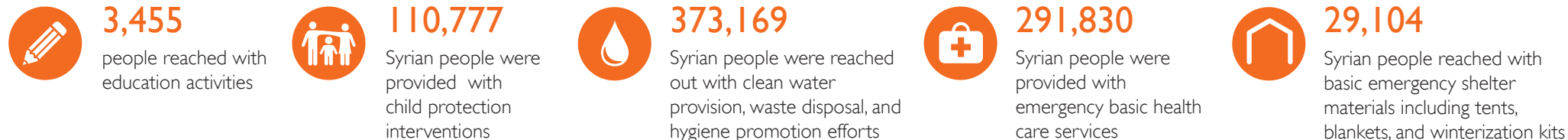
Photo: © Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA), 2020.

## Response Highlights



### STRATEGIC GOAL

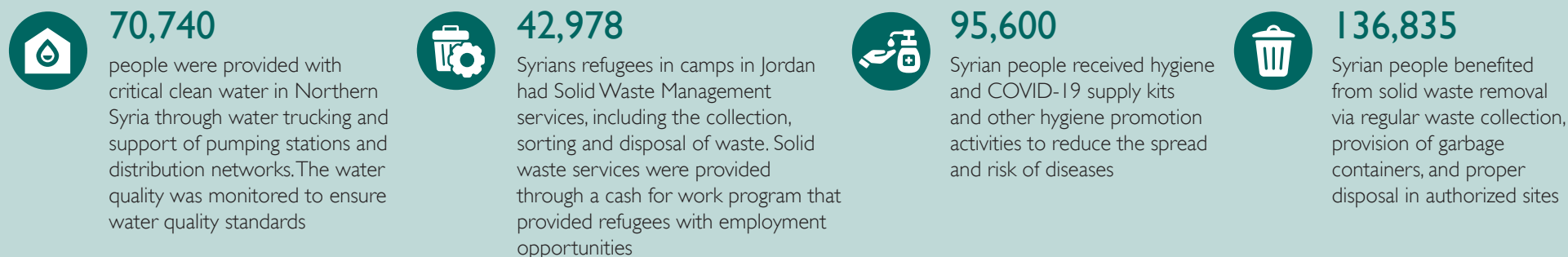
By 2023, contribute to the improved well-being of **1,700,000** girls and boys affected by the Syria refugee crisis, by addressing their humanitarian needs and promoting and protecting their rights.



### 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.



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



## Response Highlights

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



7,834

beneficiaries were provided with cash assistance in northern Syria



40

Syrian and Jordanian youth were supported with livelihoods planning



350

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

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



720

children were supported with remedial education in Syria



1,080

Syrian boys and girls in Jordan were provided with remote remedial education



1,320

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



335

Syrian, Jordanian and Iraqi youth were empowered with English language skills and ICDL courses

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



87,121

individuals were reached with primary health care services through fixed and mobile clinics in Syria



90

suspected COVID-19 cases in Syria were admitted to the COVID-19 isolation centre



34

weekly dialysis sessions for individuals with kidney trouble were provided in Syria



1,624

babies were delivered

## Communications and Media

WVSR has marked a decade long conflict for the Syria crisis, with the launch of its global report '[Too High a Price to Pay: The Cost of Conflict for Syrian Children](#)' which was highlighted across WV's audience markets from the US, Canada, Australia, UK, Germany, to the Middle East. WV has also developed [six stories](#) of empowered displaced Syrian children in Jordan and Syria part of the social media outreach that helped showcase their talent and the resilience they have despite the many challenges and protection risks they face. Their stories were leveraged through Instagram as well in an engaging interaction with influencers. Additionally, a [pledge video](#) and a [timeline video](#) of the Syria conflict were produced to engage private donors and the general public across WorldVision, especially in Spain and the US.

WV and SAMS partnered with Foreign Policy, in a flagship initiative '[Syria's Lost Generation](#)', to produce a six-part podcast with, and about young Syrians who had to flee war and persecution. The podcast also included a [Virtual Podcast Launch event](#) with WV President and CEO, Andrew Morley, WV Lebanon Operations Director, Rami Shamma, SAMS Foundation Chair, Dr. Maher Azzouz, Foreign Policy's Executive Editor for News and Podcasts, Dan Ephron, as well as Actor and WV Ambassador, Liam Cunningham, Filmmaker and Activist, Waad Al-Khateab, WV Youth Ambassador, Hussam Alhraki, and an Obygn from Syria, Dr. Farida Almouslem.

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

### Other communication products:

- No Lost Generation [video](#) marking the decade long conflict in Syria and revealing the voices of children displaced by conflict.
- [A series of 10 blog posts](#) produced by No Lost Generation members, including WVSR.
- WV [responded](#) to Kensington Palace's [press release](#) which acknowledged the response to COVID-19 inside Syria and mentioned one of our partners, SEMA.
- WVSR [joined](#) 34 aid agencies to warn of further damage if no political solution is found in Syria.



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**Canada**



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**unicef**



For more information, please visit [wvi.org/syria-response](http://wvi.org/syria-response)

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