

# Syria Response Situation Report

World Vision Syria Response | April and May 2021

## World Vision Syria Response managed

**Syria:** USD 5,029,104.45 → 7 Donors, 8 projects  
**Jordan:** USD 987,953.82 → 8 donors, 13 projects  
**Turkey:** USD 270,656.53 → 2 donors, 2 projects  
**Total** USD 6,287,714.80

\*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds



## World Vision Syria Response reached

**354,290** beneficiaries

**Women 97,829** **Girls 91,857**  
**Men 79,547** **Boys 85,057**

### JORDAN

**44,580** beneficiaries  
**Women 9,013** **Girls 12,815**  
**Men 9,392** **Boys 13,360**

### SYRIA

**308,379** beneficiaries  
**Women 88,096** **Girls 78,943**  
**Men 69,729** **Boys 71,611**

### TURKEY

**1,331** beneficiaries  
**Women 720** **Girls 99**  
**Men 426** **Boys 86**

## Latest Figures across the Syria Response

### SYRIA

- IDPs across Syria: **6.7 million** people. IDPs in Northwest Syria: **2.7 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

- 👨👩 **666,234** registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, **48.7%** are children
- 🏠 **83%** of Syrian refugees live outside camps in urban areas
- 🏠 **37,992** Syrian refugees are staying at Azraq Refugee Camp, **20%** are under five years old
- 🏠 **79,029** Syrian refugees are staying at Zaatari Refugee Camp, **18.5%** 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

Over the months of April and May 2021, World Vision Syria Response (WVSR) has continued responding to the devastating impact of COVID-19 and the Syrian crisis focusing on evidence-based advocacy across all of our three countries of operations. WVSR's advocacy efforts concentrated on:

- collecting data on access to vaccines for the refugee population in Jordan and Turkey;
- working with the Syria INGO Regional Forum on the COVID-19 situation in Syria. The briefing was circulated to key stakeholders in all Capitals and with all relevant UN agencies;
- advocacy on the basis of the Jordan Government's Defence Law. A letter, signed by WVUS, was circulated to the US Ambassador in Amman and USAID Mission Director;
- providing principled humanitarian public responses on the increasing violations we have witnessed in North West Syria, including indiscriminate attacks, child abuse. We have issued at least three reactive statements over the past month;
- partnering with peer INGOs to advocate for the reopening of the border crossings into North of Syria and the renewal of the last remaining one – Bab Al Hawa – ahead of the UN Security Council vote on July 10. To date we have:

- drafted and signed on at least four statements / letters;
- lobbied with Member States and met with UN agencies to coordinate the activities in North West of Syria;
- engaged with all of our World Vision UN offices and colleagues in Capitals to strengthen our engagement with donors and political stakeholders on the issue under debate.

Based on the above actions, WVSR aims to use its global reach and local connections to encourage vaccine acceptance and uptake by the world's most vulnerable communities to save lives, protect livelihoods, and safeguard families and children from impoverishment and violence. WVSR also aims to call for a principled humanitarian response in Syria, based on needs; for this, access to the most vulnerable is needed and must be fully guaranteed.

# Situational overview for Northwest Syria, Jordan and Turkey

## SYRIA:



In addition to insecurity and critical economic challenges, the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic continue to be one of several factors contributing to increased humanitarian needs across the country, with an estimated 13.4 million people requiring assistance in 2021. Syria remained unstable and volatile, with the main hotspots of insecurity in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Dara' and Idlib governorates.

Syrian President Bashar Al Assad was announced winner of presidential elections held on May 26, with over 95% of votes. Election results are doubted by many stakeholders, but nevertheless demonstrates that Assad maintains grip on power. Government of Syria maintained a placative approach, especially in restive areas of southern Syria in the run-up to elections. Nevertheless, unrest continued in Dara's and unprecedented escalations were reported in Quneitra.

In Northwestern Syria, armed clashes, bombardments, and improvised explosive devices continued, further exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation. Armed clashes between IDP groups highlight inter-IDP tensions in Idlib. On 1 May, the COVID-19 vaccination programme for Northwest Syria began covering over 21,900 health care and social workers as of 14 June. The number of new cases remained low during the reporting period although a slight upwards trend can be observed.

Economic situation and poverty rates keep deteriorating country-wide. This is further impacted by growing prices and limited availability of basic commodities. The SYP stabilized in May, but the economic crisis continues to drive humanitarian needs.

## JORDAN:



Jordan continues to play a crucial role as a provider of stability in the Middle East and is considered by Western democracies a valued partner in efforts to solve and prevent conflicts, such as the Syria crisis. This is even more evident with the instability in Palestine and the continuous political support received from Jordan. Yet, Jordan is also struggling to cope with a high number of COVID-19 cases which affect both its local and refugee population. The impact over the health system is heavily felt as well as the socio-economic impacts that led to the World Food Programme to cut its aid, announcing in May that 21,000 Syrian refugees will no longer receive their monthly food assistance as of July following a prioritization exercise driven by a shortage of funds. But the real number of those affected is estimated at 200,000.

The Jordan Humanitarian Response Plan, which constituted for the national response to the Syrian refugee crisis, is massively underfunded – only 2.1 received as of May 2021, according to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation's data. As a result, the Ministry decided to prioritise all efforts on two sectors only: health and child protection, in light of the alarming numbers of child marriage, child labour and school drop out since the pandemic started.

On a brighter note, Jordan has been one of the lead countries providing access to vaccination to refugees. Almost a third of the refugees eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Jordan have received their first dose, according to the UN refugee agency.

<sup>1</sup> Syrian refugees in Jordan risk losing critical support due to severe funding gap

<sup>2</sup> Jordan ramps up refugee vaccination drive

## TURKEY:



April and May 2021 were two months of intense political discussions between Turkey and key global leaders such as the US and EU, both of which have announced plans to reinforce coordination with the Turkish government. Particularly, in face of the imminent threat of vetoing the UNSCR resolution that renews/reopens the border points that allow for the UN cargo to pass from Turkey to Syria, the US and Turkey have announced plans to work together to keep aid flowing across the border into Syria.

The impact is undeniable if the resolution fails to deliver on the needs of Syrians in the northern parts of the country. With the number of people in need increasing in Syria, and the COVID-19 cases reaching record highs in Turkey – currently estimated at more than 5.3 million and 50,000 deaths – the country is struggling to provide for everyone equally. Yet, Turkey and Jordan are providing access to vaccines to all. Aid agencies, however, warn of a low knowledge of vaccination and a high fear of being sent back to Syria, especially for those unregistered.

Turkey also marked last April 29th, a decade since the first group of Syrian refugees, consisting of 250 people, entered Turkey, starting their new lives in the new country after fleeing the war and persecution of the Assad regime.

## Success story from Jordan

A Capacity-Building initiative to train community-based organisations is part of World Vision's programme 'The Livelihoods Planning and Guidance for Youth in Amman, Mafraq, Irbid and Zarqa Governorates in Jordan', funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

One of these Community-Based Organisations, 'Daymomet Al-Khair Association' in Mafraq governorate, strives to build the capacities of adolescents and youth and to empower women economically. Every year, 10,000 people benefit from the organisation by joining vocational training and income-generating projects. However, in order to carry out these projects, funds are needed for employees and for administrative purposes. In the past, the acquisition of funds was very difficult and costly, since the association itself did not have the competence to write applications. **"We did not have the experience nor the capacity to write proposals, and if we were to hire a specialist, as associations, we would not be able to afford it,"** says Yasmine Shdaifat, the association's President. **"The lack of new projects was an obstacle that prevented us from growing,"** she adds.

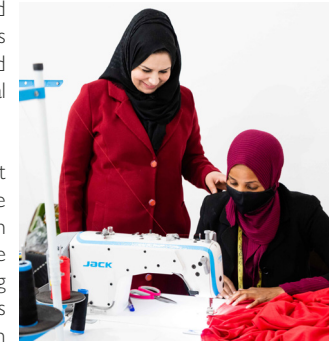


Photo: © World Vision, Jordan, 2021.

After successfully applying to the programme, the local organisation was given training by World Vision on several topics including proposal writing, financial management and monitoring and evaluation of projects. **"We learned so much from this training, which lasted for around two months. Afterwards, we were able to start writing proposals,"** Yasmine says. **"As the President, I am proud to say that four project proposals were written based on the training we took with World Vision, whom I am very thankful for."**

Three out of the four project proposals submitted after the training was provided, were successfully secured and the organisation started the implementation. The first project aims to recycle hazardous medical waste that was used to prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading. The second project builds caravans for an informal tented settlement and the third strengthens students' remote learning skills, as they are generally not used to the new online learning methods as a result of the global pandemic.

In 2020, World Vision has trained four Community-Based Organisations on finance, proposal writing, project management, procurement and human resources. **"Many Community-Based Organisations were founded after the Syria crisis began. As a humanitarian aid and development organisation, World Vision carried out needs' assessments for a number of these organisations only to find out that they have significant needs. Most commonly, the need for support to enable them to work more independently and to express their community needs in effective ways. The provided support should enable them to communicate and interact effectively with donors and communities' needs - using professional knowledge and tools that are up to date,"** says Amjad Al Khlaifat, Project Manager, World Vision International.

## COVID-19 response overview

 **People reached 60,266 including  18,227 children**

 **Syria: 59,240 beneficiaries including 18,211 children**

 **Jordan: 157 Syrian beneficiaries**

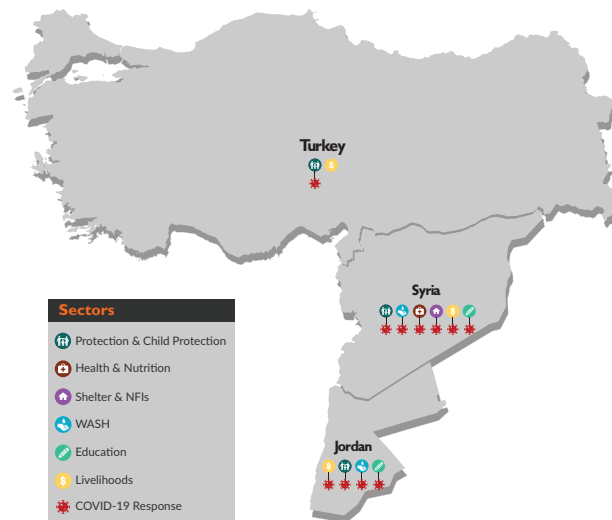
 **Turkey: 869 beneficiaries (refugees and local community) including 16 children**

### COVID-19 vaccination

In May, COVID-19 cases in Northwestern Syria doubled, reaching 1,558 with up to 100 new cases every day and only 54,000 doses of vaccine out of 256,800<sup>3</sup> were administered in a population of over 4 million people. The pledged COVID-19 vaccines supply to Northwest Syria would only cover a maximum of 20 per cent<sup>4</sup> of the population, and no vaccines are allocated to date to cover Northeast Syria areas where cases are increasing daily.

The number of positive COVID-19 cases among refugees in Jordan remain below the national average at 3 per cent of the refugee camp population<sup>5</sup>. The vaccine roll-out in Jordan for the refugee population continues and has more than tripled in May. As of the end of May<sup>6</sup>, almost 4.5K Syrian refugees were vaccinated in Azraq Refugee Camp and more than 12K in Zaatari Refugee Camp. Awareness raising and community outreach on the vaccination programme are being conducted in both camps and one vaccination centre is running now in Azraq while two are operating in Zaatari.

In Turkey, health workers have administered over 30 million vaccines<sup>7</sup>, enough for 21 per cent of the population to receive



at least one dose and 16 per cent to be fully vaccinated. Refugees in Turkey have the same access to vaccines as nationals if they own an ID card. However, if a refugee or asylum seeker is undocumented or doesn't have they necessary ID, they will not be able to register in the government system in order to receive the vaccine.

### COVID-19 response key stats

As of 28 June 2021

**Jordan: 749K** cases, **733K** recovered, **9,718** deaths

**Turkey: 5.41M** cases, **5.28M** recovered, **49,576** deaths

**Syria: 25,365** cases, **21,791** recovered, **1,864** deaths

**NWS: 25,465** cases, **22,275** recovered, **707** deaths

### Story from Turkey

With over five million infections and more than 44,000 deaths, Turkey is one of the most affected countries in the region by the pandemic. In the past year, the country went through several curfews and lockdowns which affected the refugees and host communities' economic situation. "In aim to help Syrian refugee women and host communities acquire new skills, World Vision partnered with Turkish Red Crescent to provide them with hope for a better life. Together with GAP Regional Development Administration and the Domestic Production Cooperation with 'Women Hands, we provided 50 Syrian refugee women and host community residents with capacity building and inclusion sessions. The economic decline is hard felt by women as unemployment rates continue to increase and the most vulnerable struggle to provide for their families. It is critical that we continue our mission in supporting the vulnerable communities through such interventions," says Yusuf Avci, World Vision Syria Response Turkey Portfolio Manager.



Photo: © Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), 2021

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/syria-receives-its-first-delivery-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-facility>

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1090412>

<sup>5</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/COVID-19%20dashboard%20May2021.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/05%20-%20Azraq%20Zaatari%20camps%20dashboard%20May%202021.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.thenehumanitarian.org/news-feature/2021/6/8/COVID-vaccinations-refugees-hesitancy-misinformation-marginalisation>

## 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.



**2,608**

people reached with education activities



**53,377**

Syrian people were provided with protection interventions



**783,901**

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



**151,257**

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



**16,392**

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.



**5,389**

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



**4,846**

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



**66**

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



**2,618**

Syrian women and girls inside Syria received vocational training

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



**88,163**

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



**42,978**

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



**77,488**

Syrian people received hygiene and covid-19 supply kits and other hygiene promotion activities to reduce the spread and risk of diseases



**156,879**

Syrian people benefited from solid waste removal via regular waste collection, provision of garbage containers, and proper disposal in authorized sites



**91,723**

Syrian people benefitted from public sewage networks and sanitation facilities improvements and wastewater desludging services.

## Response highlights

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



**399**

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



**560**

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.



**1,058**

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



**1,236**

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



**69**

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.



**65,001**

people inside Syria, including 25,226 children, received face masks



**50,393**

people including 20737 children received essential primary healthcare services in Syria



**2,239**

people inside Syria including 1,450 children were admitted to hospitals



**1,020**

babies were delivered in Syria

## Story from Northwestern Syria

Jouri, 13, is the youngest in the family. Before conflict started they were living together with her aunt and grandmother in a small village in Northwest Syria. When heavy bombardment fell upon their village, their home was destroyed; one of Jouri's brothers also died in one of the attacks that had killed hundreds thousands already. Her other brother was also badly injured by a flying shrapnel due to the same shelling. This was too much to bear for Jouri's parents and soon after her father lost his clear judgement, shock had a tremendous impact on him. He got depressed and decided to abandon his own family as he could not cope with the suffering. He moved to another village to live with some of their close relatives, running away from all responsibilities he had to carry as a husband and a father. The mother and her children were left alone and had to look for a life elsewhere. They traveled to another village in the northwest seeking safety and means to provide for themselves. Luckily, the family was able to rent a small shop to live in. It only had two rooms: a tiny bathroom and a shared space where everything else had to happen - cooking, living and sleeping.

The young girl found a low-paying job in one of the nearby wedding halls, her tasks consisted of cleaning and arranging items. Not only did she exhaust herself, but she also had to drop out of school. "My mother wasn't able to afford what we needed for school. No clothes nor stationary. I had no choice," the young girl said.

World Vision's partner, Syria Relief, has been running a protection project in Northwestern Syria whose target area covered the area in which Jouri

and her family lived. Syria Relief's child protection staff were able to reach out to the girl's household through a community member's report about their situation. A visit was scheduled to the family's house, where the staff introduced the project's services to the mother.

Jouri and her mother gladly agreed to receive support from the organisation. A number of assessments were made for the family; accordingly, a care plan was developed for the 13-year-old that would match her most pressing needs. The plan aimed at getting Jouri to quit her job so could continue her education. The project's activities are not solely targeting children, but parents too. The mother was enrolled in awareness sessions about child labour and school drop-out. "I didn't know how dangerous it was for my daughter to be working at such an age. She has a right to learn and be a child," said the 45-year-old mother.

Jouri, then, quit her job and was enrolled in a school close to her house. She also received clothes and school stationery. She said: "Miss Maysa [a child protection caseworker at Syria Relief] asked me 'Would you want to go back to school?', and I responded with a 'yes'. She comforted me and assured me that a plan for that would be set for me. I now feel like the child that I am, just like the rest of the children dreaming and planning their future. I want to be a teacher and be able to help my mother when I grow up." Jouri went back to school like a normal child. Syria Relief's team referred her to remotely attend psychosocial support activities via WhatsApp. She was also provided with toys so she could develop her interactive capabilities with other peers.

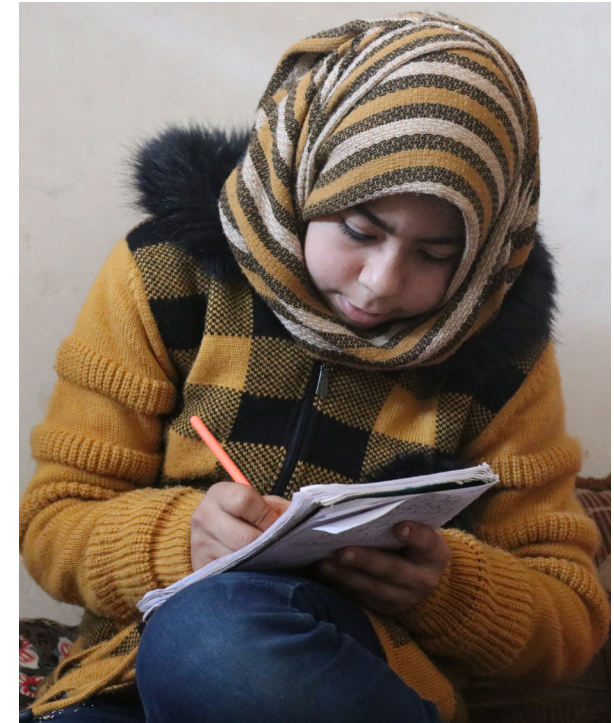


Photo: © Syria Relief, 2021.

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

### DONORS



World Vision Syria Response would like to thank the WV Partnership's network of Support Offices for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the Response's private donors.



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

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