

Syria Response Situation Report

World Vision Syria Response | October and November 2021

World Vision Syria Response managed

Syria: USD 3,503,162 → 14 donors, 15 projects
Jordan: USD 1,058,976 → 9 donors, 13 projects
Turkey: USD 59,809 → 1 donor, 1 project
Total: USD 4,621,947

FY22 October and November Expenses



Map of World Vision Syria Response offices (WVSR)

*Donors include private non-sponsorship funds

World Vision Syria Response reached

706,199 beneficiaries

Women 212,365 **Girls 149,643**
Men 193,615 **Boys 150,179**

JORDAN

49,781 beneficiaries
Women 10,214 **Girls 14,661**
Men 9,847 **Boys 15,059**

TURKEY

185 beneficiaries
Women 79 **Girls 19**
Men 51 **Boys 36**

SYRIA

643,613 beneficiaries
Women 196,982 **Girls 131,645**
Men 183,488 **Boys 131,895**

Humanitarian Advocacy Impact

Throughout the months of October and November 2021, World Vision has been advocating at national, regional and global levels to governments, institutional donors and UN agencies to address the increasing gap in protection and education funding for those affected by the Syria crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the Syria Response countries, our field staff have observed a silent pandemic unfolding affecting women and girls disproportionately - a surge in mental health needs and little specialised capacity on the ground to respond. The ongoing review of the Refugee Resilience Regional Plan - Humanitarian Needs Overview (3RP) and the Universal Periodic Review of the Syria Arab Republic have been the most important processes for advocating for Syria's children and their deepening vulnerabilities, including the durable solutions that need to be accelerated for those seeking refuge from persecution and violence. World Vision has also been closely engaged in the UNHCR-led consultations leading up to the Global Refugee Forum stocktaking event in December. Namely, World Vision has been advocating governments and all refugee-relevant actors, to revisit the 2019 commitments and pledges made for responding to the evolving crisis in Syria and host refugee countries, especially the inadequate support for the protection of forcibly displaced children. This was done in joint coordination with No Lost Generation members.

Additionally, as co-chair of the No Lost Generation Initiative, World Vision together with Action against Hunger, organised the regional conference on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) - [How do we strengthen the mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable people in the MENA region?](#) - attended by more than 100 experts and MHPSS practitioners across the region, including Ministry representatives from refugee host countries.

See here our latest reports:

World Vision Syria Response Policy Brief: [Shattered Lives: Understanding the Mental and Psychosocial Needs of Women and Children in Northwest Syria](#)

No Lost Generation Report: [Gaps in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Programming affecting already Vulnerable Population Groups in the Middle East](#)

World Vision and Syria Relief [Universal Periodic Review Submission on Syria Arab Republic](#)

Latest figures across the Syria Response

SYRIA

6.7 million IDPs across Syria; **2.8 million** people. IDPs in Northwest Syria: **13.4 million** people, over **6 million** children
2.8 million 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

672,804 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, **49%** are children
80.5% of Syrian refugees live outside camps in urban areas
43,839 Syrian refugees are staying at Azraq Refugee Camp, **20%** are under five years old
80,543 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 for 2021. In total, **2,513** Syrians have departed from Jordan so far in 2021

TURKEY

3,739,240 registered Syrian refugees in Turkey, **45.6%** are children
98% of Syrians under temporary protection live in urban and rural areas
42% of female-headed households reported being entirely dependent on humanitarian aid
1.8 million Syrians under temporary protection, international protection applicants and status holders are living under the poverty line in Turkey, including **280,000** living in extreme poverty
More than 35 percent of school-aged children were still out-of-school and did not have any access to education opportunities
5,600 Refugees were submitted for resettlement consideration to 14 countries in 2021. Over **4,300** refugees departed for resettlement to 13 countries, 79% of whom were Syrian

Situational overview for Northwest Syria, Jordan and Turkey

SYRIA:



While overall Context Risk Ratings remained unchanged, some important trends emerged in northwest Syria. In late October 2021, a number of indicators suggested the possibility of upcoming “land swaps” between the Government of Syria/Government of Russia (GoS/GoR) and Turkey. November saw a reduction of heightened tensions and expectation of large-scale military operations across northern Syria. While further changes in Areas of Control (AOC) remain a possibility in mid- to long-term, likelihood of major military operations in near future has reduced dramatically. Attacks over Idlib continued, at lower intensity but still including civilians among casualties. End of November again saw civilians falling victims to the ongoing fighting; as the result of one attack, 3 civilians were reported killed and 18 others wounded in the city of Afrin. Two other civilians were killed in an airstrike by one of the warring parties. Health facilities (including those run by international and local organisations) often remain a direct target for such strikes.

Worsening criminal situation has also been further aggravated by the deteriorating socio-economic conditions. Due to the high number of internally displaced population and the impact of the current pandemic, reports suggested “tripling” of criminal cases in northern Aleppo over the past quarter. Criminal risks are expected to grow further, following sharp devaluation (32% just in November 2021) of Turkish Lira (main currency in northwest Syria). Markedly, “temporary abduction” (quick kidnapping) of NGO staff members was also reported in October. As people become more and more reliant on external assistance, a more aggressive stand towards NGOs is being observed by our local partners, in an attempt to ensure services and support is provided to them.

JORDAN:



Refugees: Amman, Mafraq and Irbid continue to be the top three locations hosting Syrian refugees, while most of those seeking refuge in Jordan originate from Dar’a, Homs, Aleppo and rural Damascus. There are around 266,000 Syrian refugees from Dar’a living in the country.¹ As resettlement flights were resumed this year, 3,990 refugees were able to depart from Jordan and get resettled to other receiving countries; over the month of November 2021 alone, there were 908 departures from Jordan.² 6 per cent of those who submitted their application for resettlement this year, were children themselves. Despite these figures, resettlement needs remain high, while less than 1 per cent of those in need are being resettled each year from Jordan. This is the responsibility of all governments to assist those fleeing war and persecution. Yet, more needs to be done.

Security: Peaceful protests were held across major cities in Jordan (Amman, Zarqa, Irbid) in November, where several thousands marched and rallied against a water-for-energy deal with Israel. While deal is meant to address water shortages in Jordan, pro-Palestinian supporters see it as “normalization of relations” with Israel - highly controversial topic against the backdrop of Israeli-Palestinian developments.

COVID-19: Amidst slowly yet steadily rising numbers of COVID-19 cases, Jordan issued Defence Order No.35 for the year 2021, to mitigate against growing COVID-19 cases in-country. This order continues to be in effect and is closely monitored by local authorities.

TURKEY:



Refugees: According to the latest available figures from the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), there are more than 5 million foreign nationals present in Turkish territory; 3.7 million of whom are seeking international protection. Most of those seeking international protection are Syrians (3,736,760* individuals) who are granted temporary protection status in Turkey.³ The numbers of those living inside the camp (7 formal ones) remains low - at 2 per cent - located close to the border with Syria, while the majority of Syrians live in rural and urban areas under temporary protection status.⁴ This leads to only 1 per cent actually holding an international protection status; an extremely low number in comparison with the huge needs of protection of those fleeing war and violence in their countries. The worrying trends inside Syria, and the need of neighboring governments for responsibility-sharing, has also been reported in the Council of Europe’s Special Representative on Migration and Refugees latest [report](#) on his mission in Turkey. The purpose of the mission was to provide an overview of the situation of migrants and refugees in the country and observe the developments since the previous visit in 2016. The Representative made recommendations to improve “access to asylum and the treatment of vulnerable persons, reception conditions, administrative detention, long-term prospects and border issues” and align them with the Council of Europe’s standards.

The European Council has also [approved](#), on 29 September 2021, EUR 149.6 million from the EU’s budget to support Syrian refugees in Turkey.

Security: Protests against the rising cost of living and the depreciation of the Turkish lira took place across Turkey, including the capital Ankara and Istanbul. Unrest is likely to continue in the coming months across the country, and the deteriorating socio-economic conditions are expected to further fuel growing tensions and negative sentiments against refugees (including Syrian refugees, who World Vision supports through its local partners).

Success story from NWSY: Water, Food and Fuel – a luxury for displaced Syrians like Talal*

Every single winter day, Talal saw the struggle his family went through- you saw him either praying for his children not to get sick, or for having clean water to avoid any disease. He had to walk long distances just to fill a tank of water; and even that was not enough. Even if water was available, it was too expensive for many Syrians, like Talal. He remembers how they had to cut down on their water consumption, especially when it came to washing their children’s clothes or taking a shower. It was his worst nightmare, but hope never left Talal’s side.

Since World Vision’s local partner started providing sterilized water every single day in the camp where Talal and his family live, they have one less thing to worry about. Talal’s children feel happy and relieved that having water is not an issue anymore. “Our father does not have to go to great lengths to bring us water anymore,” Talal’s children happily share. His family recalls how the first thing Talal did when water was provided at their place: “He kept looking at the working faucet and our water tank,” Talal’s son said.



47-year-old Talal* lives in a tent in an IDP camp in northwest Syria along with his family of seven. 1,600 families received financial support for heating fuel. Talal can now provide for his family and put food on the dinner table in a warmer environment.

6,000 other Syrians displaced in the northern parts of Syria and living in six of the internally displacement camps, have gone through the same situation as Talal. Instead of a tent, there were nights and days when they felt like they were on a ship sailing the muddy waters of displacement. The good thing for them is that they do not have to worry about the freezing winter nights. This is the least the aid agencies like World Vision and its partners could do - providing Talal and 1,600 other families with money for heating fuel. Talal can now provide for his family and put food on the dinner table in a warmer environment.

What Talal needs is not only food and water. He also wants to build a better life for his children; and a better life starts with learning and being able to send his children to school. “Unfortunately, there are no schools or learning centres near the displacement camp, and I also do not have enough money to enroll my children in school,” mentions Talal. But he is still hoping that a school will be set up near the camp where they live. Talal and the other residents of the camp hope there will be at least one classroom set up, with a teacher and all those children need for continuing their education. Maybe one day, his dream of enrolling his children in school will come true. For now, he does not have the money to send them to the school that is three kilometers away from where they live.

Many internally displaced Syrians like Talal are unemployed at the camp and cannot provide more than what they already have. Talal is unemployed and mindful of every penny he spends. “I have worked so hard to find a job, and even when I found one, the pay was not enough to meet my family’s needs,” shares Talal. The reality is that most of the job opportunities available are only covering pennies of their actual needs. To make his life a little easier, World Vision’s partner in northwest Syria, provided 21,000 health and food baskets to internally displaced Syrians like Talal.

After all, Talal is grateful for the clean environment, the food he can share with the family which makes his family feel safer and a bit more at ease with the situation. But he wishes that one day it will be safe enough for him, his family, and every other internally displaced Syrian to go back home. He wants to reopen his business, put food on his table from his own hard-earned money. He also wishes that the services provided at the camp will be improved and continue to be made available for all of them.

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project was funded by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and implemented through our local partners in Northern Syria. It provides solid waste management services and sewage water draining. The nine-month long project also distributed 21,000 health and food baskets for almost 8,000 families settling in 37 internally displacement camps.

¹ UNHCR factsheet, Syrian Refugees In Jordan, December 2021. Available online at: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syr_Ref_CoO_CoA%20-%20December%202021.pdf

² UNHCR, Jordan Resettlement Dashboard, November 2021. Available online at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/90091>

³ DTM Turkey Monthly Sitrep, November 2021. Available online at: https://displacement.iom.int/sites/default/files/public/reports/Turkey_Sitrep_11_November_21.pdf

⁴ Ibid 3

COVID-19 response overview

People reached 684,595
including **292,94 children**

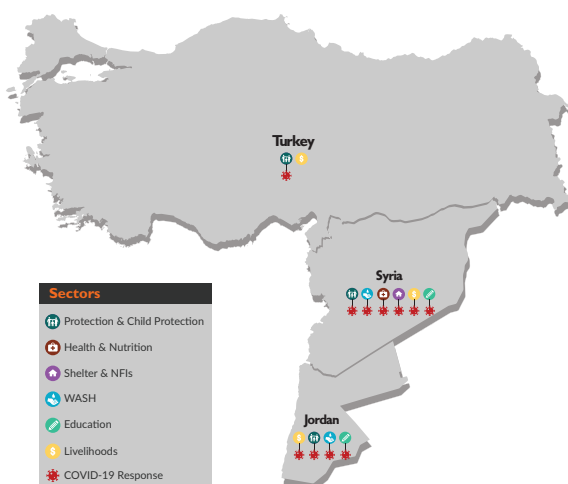
Syria: 682,881 beneficiaries including 292,549 children

Jordan: 1,570 beneficiaries

COVID-19 response key stats

As of 30 November 2021

Jordan: 953,943 cases, 942,359 recovered, 11,584 deaths
Turkey: 8,795,588 cases, 8,718,746 recovered, 76,842 deaths
Syria: 48,170 cases, 45,421 recovered, 2,749 deaths
NWS: 92,229 cases, 89,976 recovered, 2,253 deaths



Violence, including child marriage, and child labour, has become the new normal

A September 2021 Global Protection Cluster update warned that child marriage, psychological distress, gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children, and the risk of family and child separation were classified as “extreme” in Syria.⁵ The ongoing conflict, combined with the worsening economic situation, greater restrictions of humanitarian actors, a reduction in aid, and COVID-19 has made meeting the growing protection needs of Syrian children increasingly challenging as families resort to harmful coping strategies to survive.⁶ Child labor has also increased, with some children being forced into exploitative jobs in their communities.⁷ In March 2021, 82 per cent of people surveyed in northwest Syria reported that children engaged in child labor instead of attending school.⁸ Child marriage has also become very common,⁹ especially in northwest Syria.¹⁰

“I quit school a long time ago. I am now working long hours in a factory for a small amount of money as a salary. I spend half of my salary on transportation”, explained Mahdi, a 10 years old boy from northwest Syria*

I think that [early] marriages are taking place for the sake of protection, but this has a very negative impact ... it’s an education that protects a girl. They are marrying their girls off to protect their honor, so people do not bad-mouth them.” – Yusra, a 13-year- old displaced Syrian girl in northwest Syria*

A similarly worrying trend is happening in Jordan and Turkey. Child labor, already prevalent before COVID-19, has increased significantly. A 2020 World Vision survey, carried out before the COVID-19 pandemic, found that the number of children working has more than doubled in Turkey.¹¹ Another assessment found that the percentage of children working rather than attending school in Jordan has increased from one per cent in 2019 to more than 13 per cent in 2020.¹² In Turkey, which continues to host the largest number of Syrian refugee children¹³, more families are marrying girls early to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on families’ income and reduced access to employment support.¹⁴ Similarly, Jordan has seen an increase in child marriage, which was already endemic before the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁵ The number of child marriage cases registered in Sharia courts in Jordan increased by almost 12 per cent between 2019 and 2020,¹⁶ and in Jordan’s Azraq refugee camp, latest data reveal a 57 per cent increase in the harmful practice.^{17,18}

⁵ Global Protection Cluster, Don’t I matter? Civilians under Fire, Global Protection Update, September 2021, https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/GPC-Protection-Update_Protection-of-civilians_Sep-2021_final.pdf
⁶ UNICEF, Syria conflict 10 years on: 90 per cent of children need support as violence, economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic push families to the brink, 10 March 2021
⁷ World Vision, COVID-19 and Children: How a Global Pandemic is Changing the Lives of Syrian Children in Syria and Host Communities in Jordan, 2020 - A Mixed Method Study, unpublished.
⁸ Supra, 33
⁹ Supra, 34
¹⁰ World Vision, Stolen Future: War and Child Marriage in Northwest Syria, 2020, <https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Stolen%20Future-War%20and%20Child%20Marriage%20in%20Northwest%20Syria-Online.pdf> ; see also: World Vision, Too high a price to pay: the cost of conflict for Syria’s children, supra, 13
¹¹ Supra, 13
¹² 3RP Regional Strategic Overview 2021-2022, December 2020, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RSO2021.pdf>
¹³ Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), Turkey Country Chapter 2021-2022, https://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/3RP-Turkey-Country-Chapter-2021-2022_EN-opt.pdf
¹⁴ Ibid. See also: The Independent, Syrian families in Turkey marrying off ‘underage daughters for money amid coronavirus crisis’, campaigners warn, 8 July 2020, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/syria-underage-daughters-marriage-coronavirus-turkish-men-a9606706.html>
¹⁵ Aljazeera, Child marriage on the rise among Syrian refugee girls in Jordan, 18 April 2018, <https://www.aljazeera.com/videos/2018/04/18/child-marriage-on-the-rise-among-syrian-refugee-girls-in-jordan/>
¹⁶ The Siasat Daily, Jordan: Child marriages increased amid COVID-19 pandemic, 14 August 2021, <https://www.siasat.com/jordan-child-marriages-increased-amid-covid-19-pandemic-2177823/>
¹⁷ UNICEF and UNFPA Report, June 2021, Child Marriage in the Context of COVID-19, <https://www.nolostgeneration.org/media/3561/file/Child%20marriage%20in%20the%20context%20of%20COVID-19%20-%20MENA%20regional%20analysis.pdf>
¹⁸ Ibid.

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.



9,926

people reached with education activities



168

Syrian people were provided with protection interventions



15,204

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



37,163

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



333

Syrian provided with lifesaving Cash for Work (CFW)/ Community Infrastructure Improvement Project (CIIP) income opportunities

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.



5,289

Syrian people inside the country were reached through raising awareness sessions and events to increase knowledge of child protection and sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) risks and needs



2,120

Syrian children benefited from child protection (CP) and SGBV case management services



3,939

Syrian people reached through psychosocial (PSS) activities



3,766

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



1,755

Syrian women and girls inside Syria received vocational training

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



231,625

people were provided with critical clean water in northern Syria through water trucking and support of pumping stations and distribution networks



29,041

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



22,919

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

Response highlights

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



291

Jordanians and Syrian refugees from Jordan were provided with cash-for-work opportunities through the dams protection projects World Vision implements



384

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



1,755

Syrian women and girls inside Syria received vocational training

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



945

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



363

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

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



36,363

Syrian people received essential primary healthcare services in Syria, including 3,636 children



15,544

people inside Syria were admitted to hospitals, including 7,027 children



163

babies were delivered in Syria

Success story from Jordan: Water is not a given

Looking at the rate of water consumption and the emerging water crisis, we notice that, like with every crisis in the world, children always end up bearing the costs of adults' mistakes. For example, limited access to water resources can lead to decreased hygiene practices among children, which can then seriously affect their health. Children are also more likely to be affected by waterborne diseases such as cholera, which, if left untreated, can be life threatening². Not having access to water for prolonged periods can lead to dehydration. For children this means they are at risk of experiencing disorientation, dizziness and a weak pulse³. These are just an illustration of the effects water shortage can have on children. It is thus crucial to ensure children's well-being and future by providing them with clean and sufficient water for their survival and development.

World Vision's Climate Change project addresses exactly this. The project, implemented in three schools in Jordan - Irbid, Mafraq and Jerash - was developed based on the belief that treated water resources must be put to good use so that children continue to enjoy good health. When we met the students who are part of this project, they agreed on one thing - water is precious and should be cautiously used. They were visibly concerned and alarmed of the low levels of water in their country and what this could mean for each one of them and their communities.

Manar cannot imagine going through the day without water. It runs through our veins, bodies, water faucets, and rivers. We are dependent on water; it is a vital element of our survival as much as the air we breathe. She was totally right. When water is gone, so is our life – our bodies are made of 95% water, our food grows if we water the plants, we maintain our hygiene with water, and we use it to produce everything from

our clothes to phones. "As human beings, we are made of water; hence, for us it means life," added Manar.

Manar would not have known all this, if she had not been engaged in the raising awareness sessions regarding water conservation and other climate change topics such as global warming. The students did not only benefit from the knowledge they learnt but also by learning the technical parts of the systems World Vision installed in schools. This turned also Joleen* into an activist in her community, voicing her concern over behaviours that destroy the environment. "When I see people abusing the use of water like that, I can only think about people who are suffering because they do not have water to drink, around the world," tells us Joleen. She is not exaggerating as some might tend to believe; she understands the critical situation we are all in, be it locally or globally. In Jordan, we are heavily dependent on rainwater to meet the needs of the residents, and huge efforts are directed to make the best use of water that is stored in dams such as Wadi Al Arab. The dam has the capacity to fit millions of cubic meters of water.

Manar and Joleen are both right. More and more people will face difficulties filling a clean glass of water if we do not collectively monitor our water consumption rates. The global situation is not any better. Water is becoming a rare commodity, and we are spending money on research just to unearth new ways to recycle water or to desalinate water. All of our efforts are directed to avoid knowing or experiencing living a day without water. In Jordan, people who live in urban areas already receive water once a week, and maybe once every two weeks for those living in rural areas, with even more reduced frequency during the summer season.⁴ But, with collective awareness and united attitudes towards water conservation, we will be able to guarantee a future for our children. This way, a glass of water will not be a commodity. Young people like Joleen and Manar should be supported for their determination to make a change, and take action against the deterioration of our world as we know it. For us, those hearing and writing every day the stories of people who benefit from World Vision's programs,

and as Jordanian ourselves, this was a turning point. A call to follow the advice of these young students, consume water wisely and not take water for granted, but appreciate it as the elixir of life.

COVID-19 pandemic affected the world - not only this project's implementation; the number of students who went to schools decreased due to the imposed curfew, students' hygiene awareness had also been positively changed; children now bring their own water bottles instead of using the water available at school. Many students bring their personal sanitiser, and prefer to use it instead of using the washrooms. Some schools even closed their washrooms at some point during the pandemic. All of these behaviours affected the project – it reduced the water produced by the WaSH system.



To make the most of the available water resources in Jordan, a black water treatment system was installed in the three schools in Jordan. The treated water will be used for schools' gardens irrigation. The system will be powered by the sun which is one of the many sustainable energy sources.

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

DONORS



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

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