



Syria

EIGHT YEARS OF
SAVING LIVES



COVER PAGE: Two IDPs children playing in Al-Karama camp, Idlib, Northern Syria

INSIDE COVER: Asmaa and Amal from Al-Latamina village in idlib camps, Idlib countryside, Syria



OVER
£287
MILLION
DONATED
SINCE
2011
£49
MILLION
IN THIS
YEAR ALONE

EIGHT YEARS OF CRISIS



Eight years of crisis has caused unimaginable destruction and misery in Syria, making it arguably the worst humanitarian catastrophe of the 21st Century to date.

Whole towns, villages and communities have been devastated and destroyed and the long-term consequences of the societal breakdown will be felt for generations to come. By the latest estimates, 6.2 million Syrians are living in protracted displacement and 5.7 million have fled as refugees. One million babies have been born in exile in neighboring countries and have never even seen Syria, nor do many of these families know if or when they will be able to return safely.

It has been a long time now, since the UN stopped counting the death toll from the violence and we will likely never know how many lives were needlessly lost - either due to the violence or because people were cut off from basic medical services that suddenly meant easily treatable conditions like diabetes became deadly to young and old alike overnight.

While some areas have seen a de-escalation of violence, the situation in Idlib in the north-west of the country remains especially perilous.

Three million people there – half of whom have been displaced from other parts of Syria – are facing a fraught and deteriorating security situation. Aid delivery is getting harder and donor support is simply not keeping pace with the needs on the ground.

Islamic Relief has dedicated itself to trying to fill this vacuum. We continue to provide life-saving services and vital humanitarian assistance, including in some of the hardest to reach places.

In 2018, we supported dozens of medical facilities and almost 150 medical staff like doctors and nurses, while running mobile emergency units that helped staff operate on the road when medical facilities were coming under attack.

As millions were going hungry, we delivered food and provided other kinds of livelihood support, such as helping farmers increase their crop yields, to more than 300,000 people. During Ramadan, we delivered food to more than 150,000 others to ensure needy families at least knew they could rely on one good meal during the Holy Month.

Working in camps for displaced people, we provide clean water and sanitation facilities. During the harsh winter months, we helped thousands of people by providing blankets and other basic supplies they needed to survive. In order to give Syrian people the chance of building a brighter future, inside and outside of the country, we are helping children get back to school, and enabling families to re-start their livelihoods. Overall this year, we have helped almost three million Syrians, either in their home country or in neighboring countries like Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

However, for all of this work, the challenges are huge and growing. The implementation of the truce agreement in Idlib must be maintained and an end to current hostilities reached as soon as possible. Wherever people are, and whichever party is in control on the ground, civilians must not be deprived of their basic needs, and their right to access essentials like food, shelter, healthcare and education.

Furthermore, we must all keep striving to find a long-lasting solution to the crisis. Until we do, the world must not forget the millions of Syrians who are now entering the ninth year of this unrelenting human catastrophe.

Naser Haghamed

Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Relief Worldwide

PROTECTION AND IDPs

Islamic Relief is calling on the international community to:

Ensure that the implementation of the truce agreement in Idlib, where three million people and a million children currently live, is maintained and an end to current hostilities is reached as soon as possible.

Monitor the ceasefire conditions to avoid further displacement of people from Idlib. UN cluster data from December 2018 show that over 31,000 individuals were further displaced because of violations to the ceasefire.

To advocate on relevant parties to ensure that the 1.5 million Internally Displaced People currently in Idlib have adequate access to basic needs, including food, shelter, healthcare and education.

Find a long-lasting solution to the conflict. In its absence, the IDPs in Idlib and the rest of Syria are at risk of further displacement, with some families and communities being uprooted for the fourth or fifth time.

International Humanitarian Law

Islamic Relief is urging all parties to the conflict end the deliberate targeting of civilians and abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law.

Such norms regulating war call for precaution, proportionality and distinction of military and civilian targets. Civilians and civilian infrastructure, including mosques, hospitals and schools, must not be targeted.

Humanitarian workers are not a target. Our staff members have been injured and lost their lives, in breach of international humanitarian law.

The ability of civilians to reach, and humanitarians to supply, aid must be increased. UN Security Council Resolution 2417 clearly states that obstructing humanitarian access and depriving civilians of relief supplies is a violation of international humanitarian law.

The international community, in particular the UN Security Council and those with an influence on the conflict, should call for an end to hostilities in Syria, and prioritise a political settlement that puts an end to the suffering of the people of Syria.

The international community must ensure that any IDPs and refugees returning to their communities have their rights guaranteed and protected by the Syrian authorities. IDPs and refugees should return to their communities or a place of their choosing only when it is safe for them to do so, it is a voluntary and informed choice which will allow them to live in dignity. Currently, returnees are still facing protection concerns such as forced conscription, confiscation and loss of property.

Greater funding for the humanitarian crisis in Syria

As the country approaches the ninth year of the crisis, the humanitarian needs of the Syrian population are increasing by the day. People urgently need food, shelter, healthcare, formal education, access to clean water and sanitation.

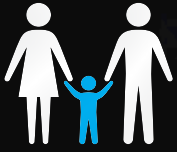
The UN humanitarian appeal for 2018 was funded by 60% only. As donors decreased their contributions, they should not forget the plight of the Syrian population and step up their financial support for the 2019 humanitarian appeal and the regional response plan.

It is also crucial that at this stage funds earmarked for the humanitarian crisis are not re-purposed for post-emergency interventions.

Education

Over 1.7 million children, according to UNICEF, have been left out of school: donors should provide adequate funding for education projects in order for Syrian children to go back to school and receive adequate education.

SOME KEY FACTS FROM 2018



11.7 MILLION
NEED HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE



6.2 MILLION
INTERNALLY DISPLACED
PERSONS INSIDE SYRIA



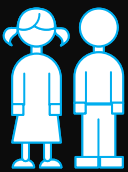
6.5 MILLION
FACE FOOD INSECURITY



5.7 MILLION
REGISTERED SYRIAN
REFUGEES WORLDWIDE



1 IN 3
SCHOOLS ARE
DAMAGED OR DESTROYED



2.1 MILLION
CHILDREN IN SYRIA ARE
OUT OF SCHOOL



11.7 MILLION PEOPLE IN NEED OF MULTI-SECTORIAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN SYRIA CRISIS

AMANI

Three year old Amani in Al-Khaldiya village, Southern countryside of Aleppo.

After their home was destroyed, they were displaced from their village and now they are taking shelter in a damaged building in Idlib.



| CONTEXT |

Eight years of conflict in Syria has left a staggering 11.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance - 5 million of which are in acute need as a result of displacement, exposure to conflict, and limited access to basic goods and services. Every day people are exposed to multiple threats to their lives, dignity and wellbeing.

Some 6.2 million people are long-term displaced, with over 871,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) living in a variety of sites across the north of the country, placing additional strain on host communities. There are serious concerns about the accommodation available to IDPs, with many lacking access to water and adequate sanitation facilities – presenting significant health risks. Families are especially vulnerable in collective centres which are overcrowded and lack privacy for families – a situation that is particularly unsafe for women and girls. Many people in Syria are in critical need of protection support, particularly girls and boys of all ages who face violence in every part of their lives: at home, at school, at work and in the community.

The conflict has severely stretched the capacity and resilience of Syria's people. Economic hardship has risen as jobs and livelihood opportunities become scarcer, productive assets and savings are depleted, and debt increases. Destroyed civilian infrastructure, disruption to vital social services, and large-scale displacement are also eroding the ability of Syrians to cope with the crisis.

Source: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

PRIORITY NEEDS

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

According to UNOCHA, 15.5 million people are in need of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Syria, with 6.2 million people in acute need. Access to safe water is limited for much of the population, and increased water quality assurances are desperately needed. Alternative water supply services and WASH supplies are available but remain unaffordable for many, forcing vulnerable families to adopt unsafe coping strategies. In 2019, Syria's water and sewage networks will require increased support, including power supplies if they are to continue to provide a minimum level of services.

Health

By the end of 2018, 13.2 million people in Syria were in need of health assistance, and yet Syria remains the most dangerous country in the world to be a health worker. Across Syria health-related needs continue to be driven and exacerbated by insufficient access to health care due to a combination of damage and destruction of health facilities, and insufficient human resources.

Protection

According to the 2019 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 13.2 million people in need for protection. Protection issues and needs in Syria remain prevalent and continue to affect all population groups. The protracted nature of the crisis has led to the emergence of increasingly complex and inter-connected protection issues and needs, in a continuously evolving environment. While the overall protection situation remains dire, protection needs are varied across different areas of the country as the situation on the ground has evolved. In some areas of Syria, particularly the north-west, the civilian population is still exposed to hostilities, leading to civilian casualties and forced displacements as people seek safety.

Food security and livelihoods

By the end of 2018, 6.5 million people in Syria were food insecure, with a further four million at risk of becoming acutely food insecure. This meant that over half of those in need in the country required urgent live-saving and life-sustaining food, as well as assistance with agriculture and livelihoods.

The proportion of people in need who are food insecure at the national level is 5 percent less compared to the 2017 HNO (38 per cent to 33 per cent of the total population). This can be attributed to the significant scale of food and livelihoods/agriculture assistance provided by Food Security and Agriculture sector partners.

Education and child welfare

The protracted crisis in Syria, now in its eighth year, has forced 2.1 million, over one third of children, out-of-school and has put a further 1.3 million children at risk of dropping out. Over 5.8 million school-aged children (including more than 100,000 Palestine refugee children) and about 245,000 education personnel are in need of education assistance inside Syria, 61 per cent of whom are in acute and immediate need.

Shelter and survival

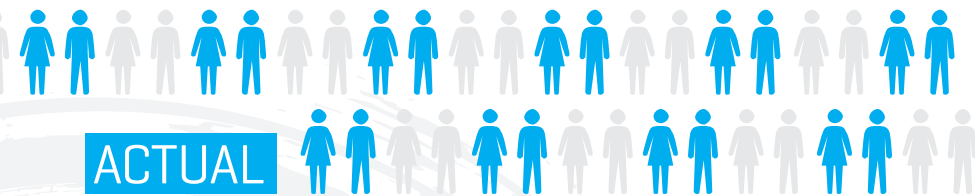
4.7 million people are in need of shelter support in Syria due to inadequate conditions in existing accommodation, and the overall lack of available, adequate and affordable shelters.¹⁸³ The people in need include different population groups, such as IDPs, returnees, Palestine refugees and host communities. Over the course of the crisis, shelter and infrastructure damage has occurred on a massive scale, with the scale of rebuilding and reconstruction needed which goes beyond the capacity and remit of the Shelter & NFI sector and the humanitarian response in general.

Source: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

2012-2018

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

GBP 287+ MILLION



ACTUAL

BENEFICIARIES

2012	1,087,523
2013	2,017,461
2014	4,021,811
2015	4,064,444
2016	3,378,355
2017	4,559,403
2018	2,985,142



LEBANON

GBP 19,069,042

UM ALI

Islamic Relief staff supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon with food parcels during Ramadan.

SYRIA

GBP 133,000,000



FATIN AND HANAN

studying together inside Syria. Islamic Relief supports them with education.

JORDAN

GBP 78,502,113





MOHAMMED AND ALI

Refugees from Syria who are now supported by the orphan program in Turkey. They live together in a home which was a mini-market before.

TURKEY

SYRIA

3,457,183



HER BROTHER

her, they live in a camp. Islamic Relief provided them with fuel and coal for warmth.

IRAQ

GBP 56,833,206



WAFAA

Islamic Relief provided thousands of Syrian refugees with education projects in Iraq.



MUNA

Islamic Relief provided winterisation projects to Syrian refugees in Jordan.

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

HEALTH

Islamic Relief's health programme focuses on providing essential medicines, disposables, spare parts, equipment, and stipend support for health professionals and their capacity building. Other critical aspects of health interventions are treating and establishing a referral system for survivors of gender based violence (GBV). Over 80 health facilities have been supported with different interventions, including primary and secondary health centres, women's and gynecology hospitals, children's hospitals, mobile emergency units and dialysis centres.

Through the nutrition programme, children and pregnant and breastfeeding women were screened, and where necessary, given micronutrient supplements and folic acid. Severely acutely malnourished individuals have been referred to health centres.

Supporting the healthcare system in northern Syria

Islamic Relief's life-saving 'Supporting Health System in Northern Syria' project, with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), is increasing access to primary and secondary healthcare in the governorates of Idleb, Aleppo, Hama and Latakia. Building on previous experience, it has provided a full support package, covering stipends for staff, running costs, and medicines, for primary healthcare (PHC) centres and the mobile emergency unit (MEU). Patients can access health facilities, receive free consultations from a qualified physician, as well as medicine and diagnostic services free of charge.

Based on lessons learnt from previous projects, a quick needs assessment of identified facilities was conducted and list of required deliverables developed. Seventy health facilities were identified for support – including 48 facilities which SIDA supported in 2017, and 22 new health facilities – that then received medicines, disposables and equipment.

Four MEUs – two in Idleb and two in Aleppo – have been supported with staff stipends and running costs. Seven PHC centres have been helped with staff stipends and running costs. Across the MEUs and PHCs, a total of 134 doctors, nurses, midwives, technicians and support staff (26 per cent female and 74 per cent male) have received monthly stipends. It was initially planned that six health facilities would receive stipend and running cost support, but an increased need for primary healthcare in the target area meant an additional PHC facility was covered within the budget.

The project worked with 150 professionals from targeted healthcare facilities and health directorate staff to build their capacity in data and information management, inclusion, and addressing gender-based violence. The health workers and support staff of the targeted health facilities also received stipends.

Islamic Relief has also identified facilities with specialised services to which GBV survivors can be referred for medical assistance and psychosocial support, providing medicines necessary for the care of GBV survivors.

SYRIA

Baby inside Syria being treated in an intensive care unit supplied to one of the hospitals by Islamic Relief along with medical disposables, equipment and medicine.



I DREAM OF BECOMING A DOCTOR

Zaid has a beautiful smile and looks filled with hope as he talks about his dreams.

"I dream of becoming a doctor, to make artificial limbs and provide them to children who were wounded in this war," he says.

Zaid, his parents and young brothers used to live in Damascus, but at the start of the crisis they moved to a village near Idlib. A few weeks later, war planes began shelling the village. **"We used to flee to the fields during the shelling and spend the night under olive trees,"** recalls Zaid. **"I was six years old when the warplane targeted our house with an explosive missile."**

Zaid remembers the moment the rocket landed and exploded just metres away from him. A fragment of the rocket killed his mother and injured Zaid's right foot. His five-year-old brother Mohammed died instantly, and his sister escaped. Zaid was evacuated to the nearest hospital for treatment, and was then relocated to Assalam camp, near the city of Atma, northern Syria.

"I started to go to the camp school using the crutch, until one of the organisations gave me an artificial foot", says Zaid. **"I started to walk, so I felt like it had become a part of my body. I am now in fourth grade.**

"I run and walk. I love it so much I cannot live without it. I love football a lot. I wish all the injured children of the camp have these artificial parts to help them move in order that they do not feel inferior to the rest of the children. I hope that this war will end so we can return to our village and we can live safely and peacefully."

EDUCATION

Islamic Relief's education programme responds to increases in school drop-out rates, early marriage, and child labour, and children engaged in military groups. It focuses on encouraging children to go back to school, and on providing productive and protective learning environments. The main interventions include back to school sensitisation campaigns, providing pre-fabricated classrooms, and rehabilitating schools with particular focus on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Also central are interventions that provide school furniture, school kits, teaching and learning material, stipend support for teachers and psychosocial support for children.

The Islamic Relief team collaborated with the Directorate of Education to collect data for the targeted schools, and later verified the needs in governorates including Aleppo and Idlib. Through this intervention, they have secured access to education for 1,890 school-aged boys and girls by rehabilitating and furnishing four Idlib schools to accommodate more children.



Rehabilitation of Najdat Al-salat school in Idlib after it was destroyed during the crisis.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Islamic Relief's water, sanitation and hygiene interventions are mainly implemented in the camps. Every day, Islamic Relief provides clean water for drinking, washing and household use, and water testing and chlorination. It rehabilitates water and sanitation facilities, provides hygiene items, and carries out solid waste management, water dislodging, and hygiene promotion.

Ensuring access to water, sanitation and hygiene services for internally displaced families

Islamic Relief's 'Emergency WASH support for internally displaced families' project was implemented in Azaz, in five camps in the Aleppo governorate of northern Syria: Al Tawheed, Tal Jabeen, Ekdah, Iman and Albil. A total of 38,810 people (21,734 female and 17,076 male) benefited through the following:

- **Clean water supplies:** A contractor was secured to supply water to the targeted camps by truck on a daily basis, providing 27 litres of water per person per day – enough to meet the drinking, bathing and household needs of everyone in the camp.
- **Water testing and treatment:** Islamic Relief tested water at source to establish its suitability for human use, and then transported it to the camps where it was stored in tanks and chlorinated, eliminating the risk of disease.
- **Solid waste management:** the team signed an agreement with a waste removal contractor to collect refuse from the camps twice a day and take it to agreed refuse sites. In addition, the contractor conducted daily sewage dislodging, improving the overall environment and decreasing the risk of disease.
- **Operation and maintenance of sanitation facilities:** Islamic Relief provided cleaning materials, and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities were cleaned daily. We also maintained and repaired latrines, sewerage networks, and septic tanks.





Islamic Relief supported the Azzaz IDPs camp by providing them with a number of class room containers as well as desks, chairs and stationary.



Shahd, 14 years old, was forced by the conflict to flee with her mother from Damascus to one of the camps on the Syrian-Turkish border.

NO HEALTH, NO FOOD, NO EDUCATION

Shahd's family fled Damascus for the Syria-Turkey border and spent four years moving from camp to camp in search of a place where they could access food, healthcare and schools with an acceptable level of education.



"So far we have not found a place where health, food and education are available," says Shahd. "With these difficulties, my mother stands before us with her bright face, her hands on our shoulders, pushing us towards success. Thanks to God, we did not disappoint her."

At the end of each academic year, the results of the exams come out announcing our success... I dream of becoming a surgeon, treating all the children who are suffering from this war, and providing them with the necessary help in order to live in peace."

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Food aid projects included providing monthly food baskets and bread, particularly through Islamic Relief's Ramadan and Qurbani programmes and during emergency responses. However, to build the resilience of local people, Islamic Relief also implements livelihoods and income-generation projects. Examples include giving families seeds, fertiliser and training in the best agricultural practices; and strengthening livestock-based livelihoods through providing sheep and fodder. Households use what they produce to improve their food consumption and sell the excess to earn an income.

Ensuring Access to Sustainable Livelihoods

Islamic Relief's 'Support to agriculture-based livelihoods in Syria' project was funded by UNOCHA. Implemented in Ma'arrat Al Nu'man, Idlib governorate, it benefited 1,050 families, or over 7,000 people in total. Focused on agriculture and livestock activities, the project overachieved its target by 19 per cent – largely because there were a large number of vulnerable families (especially female headed households) in need of livestock support. The savings were used to reach an additional 200 families with livestock support.

The project successfully mobilised those it reached. Agriculture and livestock committees were formed so communities were able to regularly voice their needs and concerns, with both men and women represented.

Islamic Relief provided regular technical support for the agriculture and livestock components, and through the committees disseminated technical advice on the best agriculture and livestock practices. Sharing of experiences and knowledge was also encouraged, which improved the agriculture yield as well as the milk and dairy production of targeted households – further improving food security and income generation.

Each family cultivated five donums of land with fava beans, peas, spinach, cabbage and squash seeds with some families able to sell their excess produce. Surplus production also helped to stabilise some market prices, making the vegetables more affordable for some. Beneficiaries have stored seeds to use for planting next season.

In terms of livestock, Islamic Relief's project provided around 550 targeted households with two vaccinated ewes, as well as a livestock kit, animal feed, and technical support on sheep breeding and animal health. The project achieved its targeted outcome, with a 100 per cent decrease in the mortality rate of animals due to preventable diseases and lack of feed. Some 1,219 animals were born, swelling the size of the herd and giving the families more productive assets. Each lamb is worth around \$30–40. The ewes began giving milk in April, producing an average of three kg per day. On average, families used 50 per cent of the milk themselves, and sold the rest. With an average animal producing six to seven kilograms of wool, families also sold the wool. Sales of milk and wool sale raised household incomes by USD 48 on average.

Equipped with new knowledge on improved agriculture and livestock practices, excess food storage, marketing and sales, target families and their communities are expected to benefit long after the end of the project.

NON-FOOD ITEMS AND SUPPORT IN WINTER MONTHS

Islamic Relief supported more than 186,000 Syrian people with non-food items such as blankets, mattresses, tents, plastic sheets, clothes and shoes for children to help displaced people during the harsh winter months.



Islamic Relief team provided farmers with seeds and fertiliser which was part of the ongoing livelihoods project for the IDPs in Northern Syria.



I WISH TO LIVE IN SAFETY AND PEACE WITH MY CHILDREN

"Our life was so beautiful before the war, before the airplane came and bombed our house," recalls Fatema. She now lives with her family in a partially demolished house in Shamiku, western Aleppo. "My children need food and drink, and I cannot meet their basic needs because of the war. We sit on these torn mats and make fires with wood from the trees and plastic waste. My children are permanently coughing because of the smell of burning plastic. I hope that all humanitarian organisations will help and support us under these difficult conditions. I wish to live in safety and peace with my children. I hope security and stability will prevail in Syria."



Fatma, 39 years old with 5 children from Al-Khaldiya village, now living in Idlib due to the conflict.

CHALLENGES

- Increasing needs on the ground.
- Security and safety situation inside Syria has exposed challenges.
- Deterioration of local infrastructure and absence of banking systems.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Provide health support for people in Syria.
- Promote livelihoods opportunities for Syrians inside Syria and in Turkey.
- Enhance work on shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene inside Syria.
- Improve schools infrastructure and provide education in emergencies.



**YOUR
DONATION
HAS
HELPED
SAVE
THE LIFE
OF THIS
CHILD IN
NORTHERN
SYRIA**



**YOUR
DONATION**
HAS HELPED
PROVIDE
SOLAR PANELS
WHICH CHANGED
LIVES FROM
**DARK
TO LIGHT**



**YOUR
DONATION**
HAS HELPED
PROVIDE
CLEAN WATER
TO MINIMISE
THE DISTANCE
TRAVELLED TO
COLLECT WATER

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

HEALTH

Syrian refugees are in serious need of affordable healthcare in Jordan. In February 2018, new government regulations stipulated that Syrian refugees would have to pay 80 per cent of the rate that applies to foreign nationals when visiting health facilities in Jordan. In practice, this means that refugees must pay two to five times more than before, when healthcare services were subsidised by the government. This has serious implications for the situation of over 600,000 people who are in an already vulnerable state. In order to mitigate the negative impact of the new policies, it is necessary to scale up health funding for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Islamic Relief has been carrying out emergency healthcare provision projects for Syrian refugees and the host community, covering gaps in available health services in urban and rural areas. Through its ongoing health projects, Islamic Relief has provided Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians with primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare, and haemodialysis service coverage for end-stage renal disease patients. In addition, Islamic Relief has raised community awareness in Jordan of common diseases.

Mobile clinic

Islamic Relief provides primary healthcare support via a mobile clinic for 8,989 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.



Mobile health clinic unit in Jordan assisting Syrian refugees

Primary and secondary healthcare services

By the end of 2018, a total of 234 people – 146 Syrian refugees and 88 Jordanians – in the south and the north had received primary and secondary healthcare services through hospitals contracted by Islamic Relief.



Islamic Relief provided dialysis units with disposables and equipment

Provision of haemodialysis care for Syrian refugee and host community

Islamic Relief has increased access to life-saving haemodialysis for 10 Syrian patients through covering the cost of dialysis sessions, medication, supplements, and regular check-ups in contracted hospitals.

Health awareness sessions

The health team raised the health awareness of 1,261 beneficiaries – 1,047 Syrians and 214 Jordanians – through conducting awareness sessions on topics such as first aid, winter diseases, cancer, diabetes and asthma. In addition, a total of 1,223 beneficiaries – 1,009 Syrians and 214 Jordanians received health kits.

Lifesaving surgery for children

Several Syrian children have received lifesaving surgery and healthcare assistance. Since the start of the project, Islamic Relief has covered 298 surgical operations for children – 260 Syrian children and 38 Jordanian children – from across Jordan.

JORDAN





Winter life is so bad. We endure very low temperatures and we don't have enough clothes or boots

The heavy rain creates a muddy area around our tent which makes our movement impossible.

Farida, Syrian Refugee, 12 years old, living in Syrian refugee camp in Jordan



Islamic Relief supported education projects in refugee camps in Jordan

EDUCATION

Jordan's education system is struggling to absorb Syrian children, especially those not living in camps. Schools are overcrowded, with higher dropout and repetition rates for Syrian children. In Jordan, 40 per cent of Syrian school-aged children remain out of school. Many work, to help support their families as they grapple with poverty. Other factors preventing Syrian children from attending school include administrative issues and poor access to safe transport. Syrian children may also find their educational attainment hampered by trauma, anxiety and stress – with the challenges of accessing education itself adding to the mental health issues they may experience.



The Jordan Response Plan for the education sector intends to ensure sustained quality educational services for all refugees, as well as Jordanians affected by the crisis. It links improvements in access and quality of education through increased absorptive capacity and professional development, with support for the development of an emergency response preparedness policy and resources.

In response to the huge need for educational services, Islamic Relief is implementing education projects to assist school-aged children, teachers and parents. Projects have taken place in Mafraq governorate, northern Jordan, which deliver informal education support services to girls and boys with poor academic performance or who have dropped out of school.

Educational mobile bus

The Islamic Relief educational mobile bus reaches children in remote areas near the Syrian border, where access to the education is almost non-existent. The bus is equipped with appropriate learning tools and equipment so the team can teach 200 Syrian children, including six with disabilities. In addition, 341 parents in Mafraq attended awareness sessions on the importance of education. The team also trained 20 public and private school teachers on working with children with disabilities, equipping them with teaching tools and techniques.

Informal education activities

Islamic Relief has provided 130 Syrian children who had dropped out of school or had poor academic performance with remedial classes in core subjects (Arabic, English and mathematics), as well as psychosocial activities and educational kits to empower them to learn.

SEASONAL PROJECTS

Ramadan and Qurbani distribution

Syrian refugees, especially children, are suffering sometimes irreparable damage, such as delayed growth development, as a result of food shortages, poor quality diets and vitamin deficiencies.

In response, Islamic Relief's Ramadan project has distributed food parcels to 12,519 Syrian people and 16,576 members of host communities. In addition, Qurbani projects reached over 12,498 Syrian people and 16,451 Jordanians in Amman, Baqaa camp, Mafraq, Ramtha, Amman ITSS, Russayfah, Maadaba, Irbid, Jarash (Gaza camp), zarqaa, Balqa'a Aqaba, Karak, Maan, and Tafeleh.

Basic needs and winterisation assistance

In Jordan, most refugees do not live in camps and the cost of renting property is now so high that most can only afford inadequate, overcrowded accommodation. During the 2017-18 winterisation programme, Islamic Relief distributed vital supplies such as blankets, gas heaters, cylinders and refill vouchers, as well as winter health kits and clothing vouchers. A total of 2,692 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian families were reached in Ramtha, Mafraq, Amman, Karak, and the Gaza camp in Jerash.



During its 2018-19 winterisation project, Islamic Relief plans to help 1,156 vulnerable families.

Funding from UNOCHA has been secured to provide lifesaving, non-conditional cash assistance and winterisation items for Syrian refugees and host communities. Some 612 families are expected to benefit.

PROTECTION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The psychological effects of the lengthy conflict have been devastating for many Syrian refugees. Women and children are among the most vulnerable in conflict situations. Refugees can face complex protection issues, ranging from registration issues to psychological trauma and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (GBV).

Islamic Relief has been implementing several projects related to protection and psychosocial wellbeing. These aim to assist women and children with psychosocial support sessions, recreational outings and activities. They also raise awareness of child protection and GBV. So far, Islamic Relief's safe spaces in Mafraq and Ramtha have helped 1,867 Syrians – 1,023 women and 844 children and young people.

ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

Islamic Relief Jordan has run its Orphan & Child Welfare Programme (OCWP) since 1997. In 2018, the number of vulnerable children to which it has provided cash sponsorship reached 2,584, including 155 orphaned Syrian children.

In addition to a regular financial stipend, sponsored children are prioritised for other projects as part of Islamic Relief's integrated approach. Other projects through which they may receive support include health, seasonal distributions, education, and psychosocial services. In addition, sponsored children in Ramtha and Mafraq had fun at special events held to mark Universal Children's Day and International Women's Day.

LIVELIHOODS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

High unemployment rates and financial pressure in Jordan have been compounded by the Syria crisis. An increase in living expenses and regulations for doing business are obstacles to job creation, and the inclusion and retention of refugees in selected sectors.

Islamic Relief is implementing livelihood projects designed to reduce poverty and boost access to vocational training for women and unemployed Jordanian young men.

The project has assisted 60 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian women to develop their skills through vocational training in sewing and cooking – enabling them to generate an income by running a small business or entering the labour market.

Thirty women – 23 Syrian and seven Jordanian – participated in cooking training and were provided with a cooking kit so they could run their own business from home. Some 360 women – 308 Syrian and 52 Jordanian – received tailoring or sewing training plus sewing machines that they could use to earn a living. All women were supported with psychosocial activities and sessions. Islamic Relief also trained two young Jordanian men from poor villages as barbers, setting up a barbershop for each.

In 2019, IR Jordan will resume its livelihood projects that will target 70 Jordanian and Syrian women, providing them with vocational training and cash grants to run home-based businesses. In addition, it is planned to establish barbershops for five young Jordanian men in the country's most vulnerable areas.



Women working as part of the livelihood projects

SHELTER

The Syrian refugee influx occurred at a time when Jordan was already suffering a chronic shortage of low-income housing. With refugees preferring to live in host communities where there are better chances of finding work and housing, rather than in camps, the shortage was worsened – especially in the north.

Islamic Relief is carrying out a two-year project in line with the Regional Refugee Resilience Plan 2018-2019 (3RP) that addresses the stabilisation needs of refugees and vulnerable communities in all sectors. Seventy Syrian refugee families (350 individuals) receive monthly cash assistance so they can pay their rent. The assistance is conditional on the family sending their children to public schools.



Fifty-one-year-old Anaam is one of thousands of Syrians who have sought refuge in Al Mafrq, Jordan.

ANAAM STORY

Islamic Relief has been working in Al Mafrq for five years, creating a safe space for women and children where skills activities such as tailoring, sewing and other vocational training is held. Fifty-one-year-old Anaam took part in the sewing training sessions.

"I am so happy that (Islamic Relief) gave me this opportunity," she says. "I like sewing but I had never used a sewing machine. The trainer was amazing – she has taught us everything from A to Z... Once we receive our own sewing machines from (Islamic Relief) we can start our own home business.

I'm well trained, have good skills and I have the passion which is so important. It was a great opportunity to learn something new and meet other women."

CHALLENGES

- There is a shortage of funding while the needs of refugees and host communities are growing.
- Delays of MOPIC approval sometimes affect the project implementation plan.

FUTURE PLANS

- Focus on sustainable livelihoods projects along with emergency response projects to empower refugees and vulnerable host communities.
- Improve education infrastructure through providing maintenance for remote schools in Al Mafrq, north Jordan, and creating safe learning environments for Syrian children and host communities.
- Provide emergency mobile primary healthcare services for Syrian refugees, in addition to providing haemodialysis care in south Jordan.
- Provide integrated response in various sectors such as food security, health, education, and resilience for Syrian refugees and host communities.
- Support Palestinian refugees in refugee camps such as Gaza and Al Baqa'a.

Refugee children playing in a camp in Lebanon

LEBANON



SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

EDUCATION

Islamic Relief has worked to rehabilitate and furnish a public school in the Hilane area of northern Lebanon, increasing the access of 173 students (10 Syrians) to enroll in the school during 2018. This rehabilitation included classrooms, playground, bathrooms, and administrative facilities.

In addition, Islamic Relief has supported nine schools and informal educational centres with educational materials including furniture and PSS tools such as KG tables, chairs, a projector, playground equipment, stationery, boards, lockers, cabinets, fans, and heaters.

More than 750 students (including 391 Syrians) aged 4–17 years were supported in formal and non-formal education with the necessary learning materials and services, providing transport for 288 students (175 Syrians). More than 1,000 kindergarten books were distributed to 216 beneficiaries (213 students and 3 teachers).

Finally, 17 teachers were trained on education and child protection issues which enhanced their knowledge and capacities (one of them is Syrian).

LIVELIHOOD

Vulnerable families were targeted with skills and vocational training, in addition to providing home business starter kits – a total of 100 beneficiaries reached.



Girl playing during a child protection program in Lebanon

PROTECTION

Psychosocial support and protection activities and awareness for children and parents were conducted for Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

More than 300 students benefited from 94 PSS activities, and five awareness sessions were conducted for 48 parents in two centres in EHC all females. PSS sessions to 221 for 871 beneficiaries (children and orphans)

Also, 799 Students benefited from group PSS activities enrolled in formal and non-formal education out of which 323 were Syrian refugee children, in addition to 13 open days were implemented for 2380 (M: 1245; F: 1135) out of which 644 Syrian refugees and 1736 PRL, PRS and most vulnerable host community.



SOCIAL STABILITY AND COHESION

Social cohesion and peacebuilding activities and awareness were conducted in Islamic Relief's community centre in Saida, southern Lebanon.

100 youth from different parties of the local community (Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian) were helped to turn a local museum into a youth centre providing PSS, active learning, training for youth on conflict resolution, drama therapy and peacebuilding, in addition to awareness sessions for parents.

The centre is now open, and more than 700 people will benefit from it during 2018.

ORPHANS

In addition to providing cash sponsorship for 500 Syrian orphans, several PSS activities were conducted to help these children improve their psychological status and increase their learning abilities, including the provision of with educational kits and materials. More than 870 children benefited from PSS activities and sessions during 2018.

HEALTH

Islamic Relief supported PRCS hospital with medical equipment and medical disposables as part of its emergency response to the huge demand for medical services. In addition, Islamic Relief equipped the KDU with four new kidney dialysis machines, and provided early intervention and support for 120 children (17 Syrian) with disabilities.

SEASONAL AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Islamic Relief distributed seasonal items such as blankets, fuel, heaters, plastic sheets, mattresses, hygiene kits, and food parcels, in addition to food parcels during Ramadan, and celebrating Eid Al Adha through fresh meat distributions to the most vulnerable refugee Syrian and host families in Lebanon.



HE FINALLY BELIEVED IN HIS CAPABILITIES!

Fadi, a Palestinian refugee living in Lebanon, is a wheelchair user. He has been bullied by other students, who point at his wheelchair. "I've been pushed by bad students and fallen off the wheelchair twice here in school", he says – a situation that has led to him developing low self-esteem. His daily routine is very much prescribed by his disability, and he misses out on the opportunities to play enjoyed by other children of his age.

"I wish I could walk just like my brother, sister and friends," he says.

Fadi was never invited to take part in any of the PE activities at school. "I love my school, some friends and my teachers," he says, but explains that he but felt bored as he couldn't run and jump with his friends at break time.



Fadi, a Palestinian refugee living in Lebanon,

However, Islamic Relief's work to help Fadi become more integrated in his school has brought him happiness, enthusiasm and excitement. "I feel that I'm someone important who has special capabilities when I participate in the [PE] activities conducted by the Islamic Relief team. They gave me the coach's role as I've been watching football and basketball for so long. They discovered my positive points and made use of them in a very creative way! Thank you Islamic Relief from deep down in my heart."



Refugee woman with Ramadan food pack in Lebanon.

NUMBER OF SYRIAN BENEFICIARIES IN IRAQ FOR 2018



026

15,137
PROTECTION- SGBV



24,018
LIVELIHOOD



26

11,437
EDUCATION



30,526
WASH



106,743
FOOD



10,076
SHELTER



51,597
NFIs



11,367
HEALTH



Refugee family benefitting from fresh Qurbani meat, Iraq

| LEARNING LED ME TO EARNING |

Sheren is a young refugee girl born in 1995, who fled Syria with her parents including 5 brothers and sisters got refuge in Erbil, Kurdistan. She was a college student before fleeing to Iraq as a result of Syrian crises. She moved with her family into Kawergosk refugee camp in Erbil. Her father started working as a security guard in the camp for six months; thence after, his father left his job due to his deteriorating health condition. Nobody from her family could find a job since then, she said:

When Islamic Relief team arranged community meeting and distributed the application forms for vocational training in Kawergosk camp,

I submitted my application form desperately that I wouldn't be accepted. After a few weeks later, I was almost shocked for a moment when I received a call from Islamic Relief that my application has been accepted for the Coiffure training. The second surprise for me was knowing that Wassim Steve (an international instructor) will be our trainer.

"I was spending all day long under the tent. Nobody was helping me out to find a job for me or even for my family." Sheren said.

I put in all my efforts and energy to learn as much as I could because I was in dire need to learn something good which could support me in my career development. It was an exciting experience to learn and have skills which are very essential to be a professional coiffure. Once the training was over, I was very anxious that I mayn't find a job in the camp or anywhere else. After three days of training completion, one day sitting in my house at camp, I received a call from Waseem Steve Company informing me that I was on the top amongst all trainees hence they offered me to work in Waseem Steve Company.

Now I'm very happy because I'm on the right track to achieve my dreams. I would like to thank God for being always with me and providing me with all physical and psychological support and say thank you to those all also, who provided me with this learning opportunity, conducive training conditions which helped me out to start my career with such renowned company. I am sure this will help me and my family in easing our life with our impoverished financial situation.



Islamic Relief Worldwide

19 Rea Street South
Birmingham
B5 6LB
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 121 605 5555

Fax: +44 121 622 5003

irw@irworldwide.org

www.islamic-relief.org

Facebook: [islamicreliefworldwide](https://www.facebook.com/islamicreliefworldwide)

Twitter: [irworldwide](https://twitter.com/irworldwide)

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