



© CARE/Syria Relief

Hala and her grandchildren live in a displaced persons camp in Northwest Syria. She has cared for them since her son was killed in an airstrike.

SYRIA CRISIS HUMANITARIAN FUND

Resources fall short as displaced and refugee families struggle

Background

Eleven years of conflict in Syria have resulted in one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time. In 2022, 14 million people are in need of humanitarian aid and protection assistance – almost 3 million people more than 2020.¹ More than 7 million people have fled to neighboring countries such as Turkey and Jordan, while some 6.7 million people have been displaced within Syria. The crisis has escalated to new levels, driven by a severe economic crisis, intensified regional hostilities, mass displacement, the COVID-19 pandemic and a widely devastated public service infrastructure. Some 90% of the population lives below the poverty line and more than 80% are food insecure.²

The youngest Syrians are bearing the brunt of the conflict, with 90,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition and the number of children in need of assistance rising to 6.1 million, an increase of 27% from 2020 to 2021.³ The economic crisis has increased negative coping mechanisms, including early marriage and child labor. Over 60% of communities report child marriage and children dropping out of school to work. Only one third of schools are functional – resulting in 4.5 million children missing out on an education.

In addition to the destruction and damage to thousands of schools, health, water and sanitation infrastructure are poor or non-existent across the country. Millions of people risk losing all access to water for drinking or agriculture. Rivers have dried up, while rainfall has been at record lows. In some places, whole villages have left for lack of water. Livestock farmers report selling their sheep at half the usual price.

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Syrian Humanitarian Response Plan 2022-2023. <https://hum-insight.info/plan/1088>

² World Food Programme. Hunger, poverty and rising prices: How one family in Syria bears the burden of 11 years of conflict. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/hunger-poverty-and-rising-prices-how-one-family-syria-bears-burden-11>

³ UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children: Syrian Arab Republic. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2022-HAC-Syrian-Arab-Republic.pdf>

An ongoing emergency for Syrian refugees

While those who have fled Syria often live in more stable security environments abroad, many still face a dire economic situation. Nine out of ten of the 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon – which faces its worst economic crisis in decades – are living in extreme poverty.⁴ Around 80% of Syrian refugees in Jordan live in poverty, and 60% in extreme poverty – numbers that have increased due to the pandemic – while only 15% of Jordanian citizens fall beneath the poverty line.⁵ In Turkey, which hosts the world's largest refugee population, the majority of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees live in often poor host communities, and hundreds of thousands of Syrian children are out of school.⁶

The Ukraine crisis threatens to severely disrupt food supplies in Syria and neighboring countries – many of which import much of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine, as does the World Food Programme, a leading food aid provider. The conflict is driving prices of food, fuel and other essential commodities to historic highs, exacerbating the crisis in countries already facing severe food insecurity. Refugees and vulnerable host communities face a potentially catastrophic blow.

CARE continues our crucial work responding to the devastating situation inside Syria, as well as supporting the needs of refugees in other countries, and the often vulnerable communities hosting them. To respond to these rapidly changing circumstances, we need flexible funding that can be directed quickly where it is needed most. **That's why your gift to the Syria Crisis Humanitarian Fund is more critical than ever.**

CARE's response

CARE has been responding to the humanitarian needs caused by conflict in Syria since 2013 – **reaching more than 9 million people** since the beginning of the crisis. In addition to this lifesaving work, we continue to provide assistance to refugee and host communities in **Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey**, working to meet emergency needs and helping plant the seeds for a resilient and sustainable future.

In the pages that follow we provide some key examples of our response in each country.

Syria

CARE conducts humanitarian activities in coordination with local partners and through direct implementation in both Northwest and Northeast Syria. In Northwest Syria, CARE is actively leading the Syria response through key positions in humanitarian coordination mechanisms and continues to build on our programmatic strengths with a focus on gender and women's empowerment. Whenever possible, emergency assistance, longer-term support and building resilience go hand in hand. Interventions include:



© Milad Ayoub/CARE

The economic crisis in Lebanon has hit refugees especially hard. Jawaher, age 43, is the mother of four and cares for a boy whose parents died. Her husband went missing in Syria in 2013. "Everything is difficult here, finding enough food for the whole family or even warming up the tent in the winter, because it is extremely cold," she says.

⁴ UNHCR Lebanon - Needs at a Glance - 2022. <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/unhcr-lebanon-needs-glance-2022>

⁵ Brookings Institution. Syrian refugees in Jordan: A decade and counting. Jan. 27, 2022.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2022/01/27/syrian-refugees-in-jordan-a-decade-and-counting>

⁶ UNICEF. Refugee and migrant children in Europe. <https://www.unicef.org/eca/emergencies/refugee-and-migrant-children-europe>

Northwest Syria

- Protection, gender-based violence (GBV) response and prevention:
 - Awareness-raising sessions;
 - Information dissemination;
 - Mental health and psychosocial support;
 - Life skills, recreational and vocational activities;
 - Case management and referrals;
 - Community dialogues on protection and gender norms;
 - Support for women-led and community-led networks; and
 - Cash and in-kind assistance for GBV survivors and persons with general protection needs.
- Health and sexual and reproductive health (SRH):
 - Health facility-based prenatal care, normal delivery and newborn care, including lifesaving newborn resuscitation;
 - Clinical management for rape cases;
 - Family planning counseling and provision of contraceptive methods, including long-acting reversible contraceptives;
 - Diagnosis and treatment of gynecological cases, referrals and nutrition services;
 - Outreach awareness raising and referral through community health workers and community outreach workers;
 - Establishment of young mothers' clubs,
 - Services to meet protection needs of the affected population, including establishment of safe spaces for women and girls, community centers, health facilities and mobile service provision;
 - Medical referral services by the ambulance referral system;
 - First aid through immediate interventions by paramedics; and
 - First aid trainings to community members by trained paramedics and volunteers.
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):
 - Emergency provision of safe water and sanitation systems, as well as long-term solutions, for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities;
 - COVID-19 response activities, including hygiene and risk communication, and transportation services for patients to COVID-19 treatment centers or specialized hospitals;
 - Distribution of in-kind hygiene kits and materials, accompanied with hygiene promotion sessions;
 - Road graveling and rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure including latrines; and
 - Waste and garbage collection and garbage bin distribution.
- Shelter and Settlements:
 - Shelter support including temporary housing materials, rehabilitation of IDP sites and housing upgrades; and
 - Participation in a multi-agency winterization plan to provide fuel, stoves, shelter, blankets and winter clothes to 2.2 million people.
- Emergency Response and Food Security:
 - Distributions of food, hygiene, shelter and non-food item (NFI) kits and ready-to-eat meal kits;
 - Cash-for-food distributions (one-off and multi-round);
 - Multi-purpose cash distributions (one-off and multi-round);
 - Awareness-raising sessions through mobile safe space and first aid service;
 - Mobile latrines;
 - Winterization assistance including cash and NFIs; and
 - Hotline referral service (internal and external).

- Economic Recovery and Livelihoods:
 - Value chains including livestock and agriculture (wheat and olive);
 - Village Savings and Loan Associations, vocational training and business grant distribution;
 - Infrastructure rehabilitation;
 - Income-generating opportunities;
 - Improved access to inputs, strengthened production and support for restoration of lost agricultural and livestock assets;
 - Vocational training to improve market access and livelihood opportunities;
 - Business grants supporting small-scale entrepreneurs and skilled business owners; and
 - Establishment of veterinary clinics to conduct vaccination campaigns, provide emergency health follow-ups and monitor reproductive health of livestock.

Northeast Syria

- WASH:
 - Rehabilitation of water sources and water infrastructure;
 - Hygiene promotion through door-to-door messaging and larger campaigns;
 - Installation and maintenance of latrines and handwashing stations, rehabilitation of sanitation systems, and de-sludging services; and
 - Distribution of WASH-focused NFIs and emergency water distributions.
- Livelihoods:
 - Cash-for-work;
 - Training to support women-led businesses;
 - Distribution of fodder and wheat seeds;
 - Training to farmers including on climate-smart agricultural techniques;
 - Support for small businesses to improve production and value chains;
 - Grants or other support to women-led businesses; and
 - Light rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure.
- Emergency Response:
 - Distribution of hygiene, dignity and COVID-19 kits;
 - Distribution of multipurpose cash assistance; and
 - Distribution of winterization NFIs and clothing kits.
- Protection:
 - Outreach and awareness raising on key protection issues;
 - Support to community centers;
 - Case management and referral; and
 - Psychosocial support through structured sessions and counseling.



Examples of how your gift can support a family of six living in makeshift housing:

- **\$215:** blankets, floor mats, mattresses, plastic sheeting, ropes, solar lamps, jerry cans and basic kitchen items.
- **\$78:** a month's worth of basic food items such as rice, bulgur wheat, lentils, oil, canned food, dates and tea.
- **\$29:** essential hygiene items for one month, including shampoo, toothpaste, shaving cream, soap, washing powder and toothbrushes.

Egypt

Egypt hosts more than 142,000 refugees from Syria – who make up a majority of the country's 286,000 registered asylum seekers and refugees. Most live in urban settings, especially greater Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta and towns on Egypt's North Coast.⁷ As in other host countries, economic challenges and the disruption of traditional social and family structures pose threats to women – including elevated rates of GBV and pressures on families to force daughters into early marriage for financial reasons. CARE works to reduce GBV among refugee communities in greater Cairo and Alexandria, by ensuring that women are empowered to tackle the issues they face and that they have access to quality services. This builds on CARE's long experience in Egypt, addressing barriers to women and girls' potential. Approaches include:

- SRHR awareness sessions for women, teenage girls and teenage boys addressing topics such as:
 - Raising awareness about GBV, women's bodies and the pregnancy process;
 - Cultivating safe and healthy practices; and
 - COVID-19 awareness.
- Legal awareness sessions for women covering:
 - GBV and legal procedures regarding marriage licenses, divorce and birth certificates, and legislation concerning sexual harassment; and
 - Awareness about GBV, custody and early marriage.
- Basic psychosocial sessions for women, girls and men aimed at:
 - Raising awareness about basic trauma support and anger management;
 - Providing skills to deal with stress and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - Reinforcing the importance of reporting violence and seeking support; and
 - Taking steps toward helping men manage their anger and change their view from being a perpetrator of violence to supportive of stopping violence.
- Early marriage training for women and girls focusing on:
 - Increasing awareness of women's and girls' legal rights, with respect to marriage;
 - Discussing physical and gender differences and the dangers of early marriage; and
 - Supporting women's power to say "no" to attempts to marry off young daughters.
- Children's camp for girls and boys.
- Services for GBV survivors, including:
 - Access to case management;
 - Housing support;
 - Legal consultations and support; and
 - Psychosocial support.

Jordan

More than 675,000 Syrians are registered as refugees and asylum seekers in Jordan. More than 80% live in urban settings, with the remainder in refugee camps.⁸ CARE's programming in Jordan comprises humanitarian response and longer-term development, reaching a mix of vulnerable Jordanian families, refugees and migrant populations. Most refugees in Jordan live in urban areas and the majority of CARE's work is focused on Jordanians and refugees who live in towns and cities. Currently, about 32% of participants in CARE's programming in Jordan are residents of the Azraq refugee camp. Program activities in Jordan include:

⁷ UNHCR. Egypt Monthly Statistical Report. https://www.unhcr.org/eg/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2022/06/Monthly-statistical-Report_May_2022.pdf

⁸ Statistical Report on UNHCR Registered Syrians as of 15 June 2022. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/93765>

- Protection:
 - Information provision;
 - Vulnerability assessments and case management;
 - Social Analysis and Action⁹; and
 - Engaging men and boys.
- Food Security and Basic Needs:
 - Emergency cash assistance; and
 - Hydroponics for sustainable agriculture in Azraq camp.
- Economic Empowerment:
 - Vocational training and life skills and employability training;
 - Facilitating women's participation in village savings and loan associations; and
 - Business startup-grants and development training for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Education and Child Protection:
 - Conditional cash grants for school-related expenses;
 - Day care support;
 - Online activities; and
 - Child protection awareness sessions.
- Psychosocial Support:
 - Recreational and awareness sessions;
 - Peer support groups;
 - Individual counseling sessions;
 - Outreach activities; and
 - Community events.
- Support for Civic Engagement:
 - Participation the Women's Leadership Council;
 - Community Score Card¹⁰;
 - Activities of the CARE Child Education Board and Community Committees; and
 - Psychological first aid training.



With training from CARE and access to a savings and loan group, Abeer Abbas was able to establish a home-based business manufacturing dairy products. Before fleeing Syria for Jordan in 2013, Abeer was a primary school teacher, but has been unable to find a job to support her family.

Lebanon

Lebanon has experienced a number of shocks in recent years, ranging from the impact of the Syrian crisis to the recent financial and economic crisis, political stalemate, COVID-19 and the August 2020 Beirut port explosion. The economic crisis has put additional strain on households that are increasingly unable to meet their basic needs, with annual inflation reaching a record 240% by January 2022,¹¹ coupled with the depreciation of the Lebanese pound, which has lost 90% of its value since October 2019.¹²

⁹ CARE's signature approach to gender norm transformation through guided exploration, reflection and discussion.

¹⁰ A citizen-driven accountability approach for the assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation of public services.

¹¹ Lebanese Republic Central Administration of Statistics. <http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/economic-statistics-en/cpi-en>

¹² <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanons-currency-plummets-again-amid-financial-crisis-political-deadlock-2022-01-11/>

Lebanon hosts about 1.5 million Syrian refugees as well as 200,000 and 300,000 Palestinian refugees and some 13,715 refugees of other nationalities – the highest per capita refugee population in the world.¹³ An estimated 98% of Syrian families are below the poverty line, with debts that have doubled since 2020, used primarily to access food.¹⁴ Only 47% of Syrians (18+ years old) are reported to be working – 7.5% of whom are women – and families rely primarily on humanitarian aid and low-paid unskilled labor as their primary source of income.

To respond to the overwhelming needs, CARE targets the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, as well as Lebanese households and other nationalities, including migrants and Palestinians. CARE's interventions have included basic assistance, protection, GBV, food security and livelihoods, or more specifically:

- Establishment of networked information systems that link people in need with social service providers, both local and external resources, and track current and emerging trends. To date, around 2,500 households are registered, which represents about 12,500 individuals – 50% of the registered households are Syrian;
- Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees and host communities;
- Strengthening SMEs and youth to become more resilient and contribute to the local economy;
- Support for farmers, both Syrian and Lebanese; and other value chain actors focused on the production of cereals and vegetables, promoting linkages with other value chains;
- Support for local feminist civil society organizations to implement activities targeting women and girls, including refugees;
- GBV prevention and response measures, including psychosocial support, awareness raising, case management and referrals to mental health services;
- Distribution of menstrual hygiene kits and self-care sessions to frontline workers; and
- Provision of food parcels, fruit and vegetable vouchers and WASH kits to vulnerable Syrian refugee families, Lebanese households and migrant households.

Turkey

Turkey hosts the world's largest refugee population, including some 3.7 million Syrians registered as refugees and asylum-seekers and over 330,000 refugees under international protection, mainly from Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran.¹⁵ Syrian refugees live dispersed in communities across Turkey, with a very small number hosted in seven temporary accommodation centers managed by the Turkish government. While Turkey has coped relatively well compared to neighboring countries hosting Syrian refugees, the situation has become increasingly politicized, social services are overstretched and anti-migrant sentiments are on the rise. Moreover, the effects of economic downturn and COVID-19 have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of refugees and asylum seekers.

¹³ [UNCHR Lebanon at a glance](#).

¹⁴ Lebanon – Preliminary Results of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees 2021. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/88960>

¹⁵ Turkish Interior Ministry. <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27> and UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2022/01/UNHCR-Turkey-Operational-Update-NovDec-2021.pdf>

CARE has been responding to the refugee crisis in Turkey since 2013. Since the beginning of our response, CARE Turkey has developed well-established working relationships with local and national governmental authorities in Turkey. We have an ongoing permanent registration in the country and maintain a representative office in Gaziantep, which has recently been extended to provide support to the refugee populations in Gaziantep, Adana, Kilis and Sanliurfa provinces. Through our nine information protection spaces, CARE provides initial information on services and rights, case management, and individual protection assistance services to both refugee and host communities. CARE's good working relations with Turkish authorities is positively extended to our cross-border operations in Northwest Syria, implemented both through partners and via direct implementation from the area office in Northern Aleppo.

In the last fiscal year, we have implemented refugee-focused programming in sectors including:

- **Livelihood and Women's Empowerment:**
 - Financial support to women-led businesses and groups (cooperatives, social enterprises, etc.) through micro-credit, medium credit and grants;
 - Turkish language training for refugees;
 - Business and employment consultancy (business clinic activity);
 - Product fairs and networking events;
 - Business and life skills training sessions on market and customers, product and service design and pricing, promotion and sales, decision making, communication and networking, planning, time management, negotiation, creative thinking and problem solving, leadership and teamwork;
 - Linkages to protection information; and
 - Engagement of men and boys for women's economic empowerment.
- **Shelter and Basic Needs:**
 - Household-level upgrades (cash for shelter);
 - Building-level upgrades (cash for shelter); and
 - Communal-level upgrades.
- **Protection:**
 - Legal, medical and psychosocial support services and counseling;
 - Case management and referrals;
 - Cash assistance for protection;
 - Awareness-raising on rights/entitlements, legal status and key services;
 - Protection information dissemination through community steering committees, community activators and community events; and
 - Youth sport activities.
- **Legal Support:**
 - One-on-one legal counseling;
 - Legal assistance (drafting petitions, accompaniment to courts, case follow-up);
 - Legal fee assistance (translation and notary fees as well as court expenses);
 - Legal referral (to bar associations and legal clinics for the provision of legal aid services);
 - Legal group awareness raising sessions;
 - Advocacy at legal authorities and state authorities to promote human rights, non-discrimination and gender equality; and
 - Active contribution to joint NGO advocacy positions, messages and initiatives through coordination platforms.



Fierce snowstorms in the south of Turkey and north of Syria in early 2022 destroyed hundreds of tents sheltering displaced people and damaged thousands more, along with families' scarce belongings.

- COVID-19 Mitigation and Response:
 - Hygiene and risk messaging;
 - A tele-counseling hotline sending outgoing messages and answering incoming questions;
 - Support for COVID-19 vaccination – in particular helping migrants overcome specific barriers;
 - Awareness campaigns promoting vaccination and addressing misinformation; and
 - A partnership with Facebook to promote accurate information and, particularly, to encourage refugee women of childbearing age to get vaccinated.

Conclusion

The humanitarian emergency caused by conflict in Syria continues unabated – though it has been pushed from the headlines by crises around the world. At a time when resources are scarce amid competing demands, CARE more than ever needs funding for our immediate and long-term response to the needs of Syrian refugees and displaced families. Your gift to the **Syria Crisis Humanitarian Fund** provides vital support to those lifesaving efforts.¹⁶ We offer our sincere gratitude for your generosity.

August 2022

¹⁶ In order to effectively manage the current emergency response and continue to be able to rapidly deploy resources for other emergencies, CARE will reserve 20% of donations to the Syria Crisis Humanitarian Fund to cover technical support, administration and emergency preparedness expenses, including the rapid deployment of staff to emergencies such as this one.