EMERGENCY RESPONSE

OXFAM

REFUGEE CRISIS

September 2015

> *"I heard a family describe the plan their young people have for getting to North Africa and boarding boats that are crossing the Mediterranean. Lebanon and Jordan desperately need more support to house, and to share the resettlement of the huge influx of people."*
> **Mark Goldring, Chief Executive speaking about his visit to Syria and Lebanon, July 2015**

Fleeing conflict

Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes, to run for their lives, and risk the safety of their families. Many families are making the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to seek safety in Europe. Oxfam is in Italy right now, providing life-saving support to people who have fled from some of the worst crises in the world.

We urgently need to help people in Europe - but this crisis goes far beyond there. Oxfam is working in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon to get life-saving aid to people fleeing Syria's brutal conflict.

In Syria, indiscriminate attacks on civilians remain a daily reality. Those who have fled the conflict find themselves struggling to survive. The neighbouring countries of Jordan and Lebanon are under immense pressure and the situation for refugees, particularly those living outside camps, continues to worsen. **This is now Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II.**

In recent months, funding pressures have meant that food assistance to refugees from many agencies has been cut back, making an already precarious situation even more serious for those who have fled their homes with nothing.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, so far Oxfam has reached over 1.6 million people in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon with life-saving clean water, sanitation and vital support for families who have lost everything. **We urgently need to help more people in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and closer to home in Europe, too. You can help. Please give what you can today.**

Hamoudi, 11, and sisters Sidra, 4, and Yasmine, 6, from Ghouta, near Damascus in Syria, collect drinking water from an Oxfam supplied water tank in Zataari camp, Jordan. Zataari is home to around 80,000 Syrian refugees, half of which are under the age of 16.

Credit: Sam Tarling/ Oxfam.

Latest revision of this document: https://library.prospect.org.uk/id/2015/01108
This revision: https://library.prospect.org.uk/id/2015/01108/2015-09-11

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[1] http://www.unocha.org/syria (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)
[2] http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

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Jordan

There are almost 630,000 registered refugees in Jordan. Many live in official refugee camps, such as Zaatari. Others are living as part of host communities and in informal settlements. Oxfam helped over 49,000 people in Jordan during 2014 by providing drinking water, toilets and showers, community centres, hygiene promotion activities and waste collection.

Oxfam continues to work tirelessly to connect individual households to the water network in Zataari camp. This will be the biggest water network ever built in a refugee camp. We are running 'Oxfam Hygiene Clubs' for children, and providing safer, more child friendly sanitation facilities. We are exploring how to strengthen local economies to provide livelihood opportunities to both refugees and vulnerable and poor Jordanians living in host communities.

When Ahmad's daughter suffered a traumatic gunshot wound to the head, his first instinct was to protect her and the rest of his family by fleeing their home in Syria to live in Jordan. Oxfam is planning to work in host communities in Jordan, providing water tanks, water filters and hygiene vouchers.
Photo: Sam Tarling/ Oxfam

Lebanon

Syrian refugees now make up a quarter of the population of Lebanon and there are no official refugee camps. This has put Lebanon's infrastructure, health services, education and jobs under a huge amount of pressure. Tighter restrictions on refugees around their legal status as well as decreasing food support are making refugees more and more vulnerable.

Oxfam has reached almost 385,000 people to date, focusing on providing water, hygiene and sanitation to prevent the spread of disease. We are building and repairing latrines in informal settlements, supplying water tanks, and engaging in hygiene promotion activities and workshops.

Syria

In June of this year, Oxfam completed a water treatment plant in Salamiyah City, providing water to 35,000 people where before piped water was only available once every ten days. We are now carrying out health promotion activities where children are engaged in games, competitions and songs communicating health and hygiene messages. Oxfam plans to continue work across conflict lines and initiate more community engagement, more health promotion, and economic activities in addition to providing clean water.

Italy

Oxfam supports people arriving from a wide range of countries - including women and children who have made the journey alone. As well as accommodation and living essentials (clothes, shoes, food), they are provided with legal and administrative support for submitting asylum claims, accessing health services, language classes and vocational training, voluntary work and social activities that help them develop relationships with the communities where they now live. Oxfam is currently extending its work with a new program in Sicily to ensure that asylum seekers in the large reception centres there are receiving effective legal and psychological assistance.

Your support could enable us to:
Provide a refugee in Jordan a hygiene kit , minimising the risk of hygiene-related illness -**£18**
Provide clean water to a family in Jordan **- £27**
Provide 280 people with access to a toilet and hand-washing facilities in Lebanon - **£5,000**

Registered charity in England and Wales (202918) and Scotland (SCO39042). Oxfam GB is a member of Oxfam International. All information correct at time of going to print. Costs are estimates based on contingency plans and programme budgets.