



### **Executive Summary**

Islamic Relief has experienced many disasters and emergencies within its relief and humanitarian work. We initially believed that the current crisis in Syria would only have an impact at national level. Like other humanitarian organisations, we could not predict the extent to which the whole region would be affected.

Since the crisis started in 2011, Islamic Relief has provided support for hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees who have fled to Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. As the crisis and the humanitarian conditions inside Syria continued to worsen, we decided to expand our operations to inside Syria, using all available resources and opportunities to provide relief and urgent support for internally displaced people.

Our operation inside Syria is difficult and dangerous. Our staff and volunteers have suffered a lot, with some killed or seriously injured in the line of duty as they deliver aid. Islamic Relief aid convoys have also been harassed. However, due to the dedicated efforts of our relief workers since the beginning, we have managed to reach nearly three million beneficiaries this year inside Syria and we have assisted over 6.5 million Syrians inside Syria and in neighbouring countries (Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq) since the crisis began.

At the beginning of our operation responding to the Syrian crisis, the number of staff working inside Syria and within neighbouring countries numbered was in the dozens. We have worked on building the capacity of volunteers, aid workers and local Syrian staff, providing them with the specialist training they need to assist people as safely and effectively as possible. The capacity of the team has been expanded, and now includes over 270 staff and 300 volunteers located across four field offices, all working hard to support Syrian refugees and internally displaced people. Additionally, in Europe our teams are assisting Syrian refugees in Greece, Italy, Macedonia and Germany.

In 2015, an estimated 293,606 Syrians made the perilous journey to Europe via Greece and Italy.

Islamic Relief responded to the refugee crisis in Europe by launching a complimentary response entitled Mediterranean Refugee Crisis (MRC). As part of this intervention, Islamic Relief assisted Syrian refugees from other countries with 52,000 food packs and 7,000 hygiene kits and by providing cultural mediators in Greece, Italy, Macedonia and Germany.

The prime objective of the two-week temporary ceasefire called on February 27 was to open up access for the delivery of life-saving humanitarian aid to these desperate communities. Our staff on the ground say the ceasefire has modestly improved humanitarian access but the situation is still uncertain and unstable.

We hope that the Syria crisis will soon end, enabling us to contribute to a rebuilding of lives and livelihoods in Syria that is desperately needed. We would like to thank all our donors who have contributed, however large or small their donations. We hope to continue providing support to Syrians everywhere, assisting their survival and hoping that one day they will be able to return to their home country safely.

Tariq Abdoun
Interim CEO
Islamic Relief Worldwide



## Humanitarian Situation **and Needs**

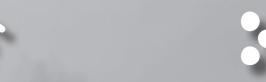
With over two decades of experience in the Middle East,we work closely with local humanitarian organisations and community networks to provide immediate support and build long-term resilience. Our Islamic identity has helped us to establish trust and access on the ground and crucially to mobilise the generous support of Muslim communities and institutions in the UK and around the world.

The Syria crisis is entering its sixth year, and humanitarian needs are greater than ever. The effects of this crisis are severely impacting the whole of Syria.

More than half of all Syrians have been forced to leave their country, while those who remain have often been displaced from their homes multiple times. At the end of 2014 64.7 per cent of the population lived in extreme poverty and could not secure basic food and non-food items such as toiletries and kitchen utensils. Many are suffering from hunger and malnutrition, and some have even starved to death in besieged communities. The situation in Aleppo is deteriorating after recent development in the ground which led to a real danger of the main city being cut off from outside support. Islamic Relief is working closely with other humanitarian organisations and the local health directorate to implement contingency plans, including stockpiling medical supplies inside Aleppo.

The economy, services and infrastructure of Syria are no longer stable, having been badly affected by the ongoing conflict. In addition to this, humanitarian access within Syria is increasingly challenging as a result of areas of control changing frequently, ongoing violence and attacks on civilian staff and infrastructure, among numerous operational challenges.

Humanitarian Needs Overview 2016 available at: http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab



1.7 MILLION
IDPS ARE LIVING IN CAMPS AND
COLLECTIVE SHELTERS



OVER 2 MILLION
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS



70%
LACK ACCESS TO ADEQUATE DRINKING WATER AMID CONTINUING WATER CUTS



8.7 MILLION
PEOPLE HAVE ACUTE NEEDS
ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS



2.5 MILLION
PEOPLE LIVING IN THESE AREAS
ARE SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE.



1.5 MILLION
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

# **KEY FIGURES**



4.8 MILLION



2.4 MILLION
PEOPLE LACK ADEQUATE



13.5 MILLION

6.6 MILLION
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INTERNALI
DISPLACED BY VIOLENCE

4.5 MILLION
PEOPLE ARE IN NEED IN
HARD-TO-REACH AREAS

**OVER 11 MILLION** 

<u>Cover page: Two Syrian children playing in the rubble and ruins of Aleppo, northern Syria.</u>

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### ISLAMIC RELIEF RESPONSE AND AIMS

#### Main objectives

Improved living conditions, protection and well-being for vulnerable refugees, IDPs, and people in need affected by the crisis in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

#### **Programme aims**

#### Relief

Meeting the humanitarian and protection needs of communities displaced and affected by the conflict in Syria, and building resilience within host communities.

Islamic Relief has been working since the beginning of the Syria crisis to respond to the needs of those affected, responding to the humanitarian crisis and its impact on people inside Syria as well as those who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon).

Islamic Relief is working to alleviate the suffering of Syrian people caught up in the conflict by providing essential assistance in various sectors such as food, non-food items, health, water and sanitation, child protection, shelter and psychosocial support.

#### Recovery

Local communities are empowered to meet the challenges of the Syria crisis with strengthened capacity for sustainable development, improved living standards and overall wellbeing (including education).

Islamic Relief has supported an average of 3 million people each year since 2012, with more than 140 million GBP received from IR partners and institutional funding sources. Our response is based on a solid regional strategy prepared by our Middle East team after intensive consultations with related

stakeholders, which aims to improve the living conditions, protection and well-being of IDPs in Syria and vulnerable refugees in neighbouring countries.



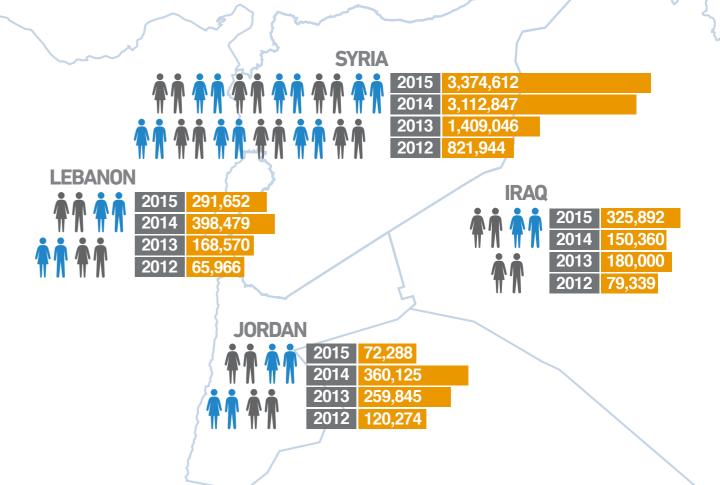
### **ACTUAL BENEFICIARIES**

 2012
 1,087,523

 2013
 2,017,461

 2014
 4,021,811

2015 4.064.444



### **OPERATIONAL CAPACITY**

Four field offices for Syria Emergency Response are operating to support Syrian IDPs and refugees in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, with over 270 staff and 300 volunteers.



### **FUNDING BREAKDOWN**

| COUNTRY | 2012   GBP  | 2013   GBP  | 2014   GBP  | 2015   GBP |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Syria   | £2,499,661  | £9,090,882  | £9,237,354  | £9,119,424 |
| Jordan  | £2,312,400  | £28,125,543 | £35,463,113 | £4,256,271 |
| Lebanon | £1,399,093  | £2,309,865  | £3,989,927  | £3,252,982 |
| Iraq    | C2 F0F / 27 | C11 0/F 0/F | 000/00/7    | CO 7/O 20F |
| 11 aq   | £2,585,627  | £11,965,945 | £8,948,847  | £8,740,285 |

### **SOURCES OF FUNDING**



















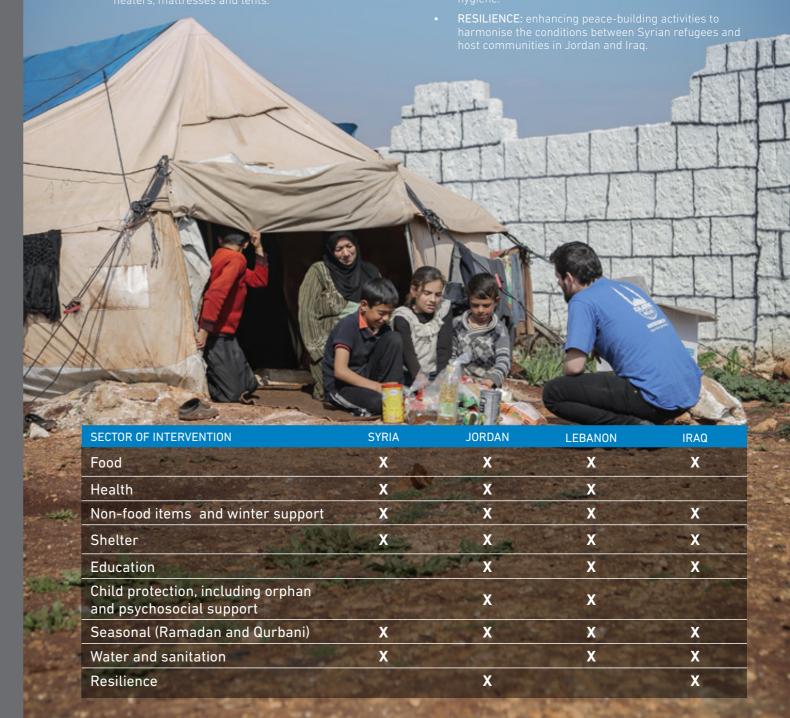


### **SECTORS OF INTERVENTION**

Islamic Relief has been working on supporting people affected by the Syria crisis in various sectors, epending on the needs of the ground and humanitarian access. The intervention varies from one country to another based on the needs assessment received from the field. The main sectors that Islamic Relief has been involved in are:

- FOOD SECURITY: providing food parcels and vouchers in addition to flour distribution needed for bakeries.
- NON-FOOD ITEMS, SHELTER AND SUPPORT FOR WINTER NEEDS: delivering hygiene kits and other items needed to overcome difficult winter conditions such as blankets, gas,
- HEALTH: providing medical primary and secondary assistance in addition to supporting field hospitals with medical items and equipment.
- EDUCATION: encouraging children to continue their education through non-formal education activities.
- CHILD PROTECTION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT:

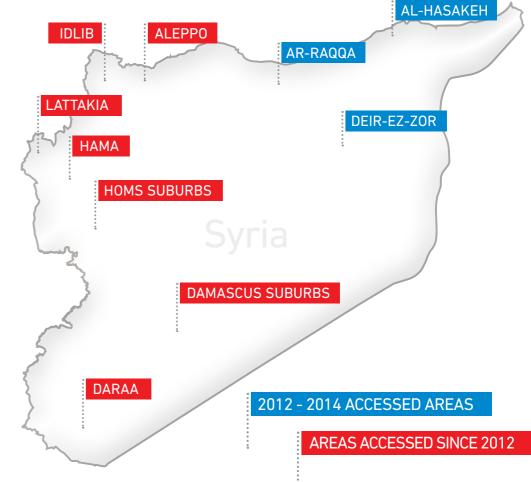
  providing recreational activities and therapy through
  play to support traumatised children, alongside orphan
- WATER AND SANITATION: establishing water wells and sanitation units (eg latrines and washbasins) for Syrians to access clean water and avoid infections caused by poor bygione



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# AREAS OF INTERVENTION









The violence in Syria continues to lead to more displacement, destruction and difficulty, threatening people's lives and affecting access to food and basic services. The number of internally displaced people is increasing, and humanitarian groups cannot meet increasing needs. The humanitarian context is extremely critical in Aleppo, Idlib and besieged areas such as Madaya, East Ghouta, West Ghouta, Southern Damascus suburb,

Northern Homs Suburbs, Daryya, and Moaddamya. The most critical needs are in all emergency sectors of shelter, non-food items, food, health and water/sanitation. These needs must be met in order to adequately respond to the growing needs of new internally displaced people (IDPs) in Syria – near the Turkish border and in other locations.

A Syrian family receives a food parcel from Islamic Relief Syria

# KEY SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

Islamic Relief has been working to support displaced people within Syria since the beginning of the crisis. In Syria Islamic Relief's main focus has been providing medical assistance, food and non-food items, including materials such as blankets and warm clothing in the cold winter months.

In 2015 Islamic Relief supported 3,374,612 beneficiaries in the following sectors:



**TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES** 

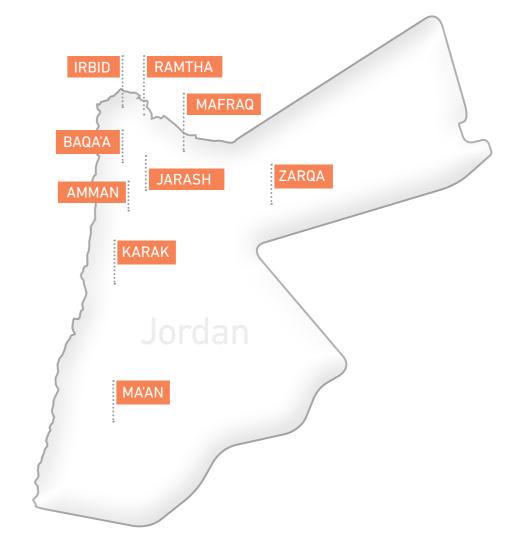
3,374,612

















Jordan is hosting 632,762 Syrian refugees (UNHCR, December 2015);2 It is estimated that only 17% of Syrians in Jordan live in the refugee camps, and around 83% live outside camps in the host community. Already considered a resource-strained country, the arrival of Syrian refugees in Jordan has increased pressure on the provision of services and has led to tension between Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities, particularly communities in the northern areas of Jordan.

Inter-communal tensions are on the rise between refugee and host communities across the region. In Jordan Islamic Relief is working with the Lutheran World Federation to pilot an innovative approach to peace-building that uses positive messages from across Islam and Christianity.

Syrian children receiving support in Jordan through an Islamic Relief education project.

In 2015 Islamic Relief expanded its geographical presence from operating solely in the north of Syria, to assisting people in southern areas.

In addition, Islamic Relief Jordan has supported refugees and the local host community through health care, education, financial assistance with rent, seasonal programmes and the provision of non-food items such as hygiene kits and warm winter clothing.

Islamic Relief has established itself as one of the leading humanitarian agencies in Jordan responding to the Syrian crisis since 2012. During this time, Islamic Relief has expanded its operations and emerged as a key partner for institutional donors including the UN World Food Food Programme, UK Department for International Development and Disasters Emergency Committee, catering to the needs of Syrian refugees in urban settings.

# KEY SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

IN 2015, ISLAMIC RELIEF SUPPORTED 72,288 PEOPLE IN JORDAN IN THE FOLLOWING SECTORS



NON-FOOD ITEMS 28,480 NFI SHELTER 7,005

ORPHANS SUPPORT 852

EDUCATION 2,926

**TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES 72,288** 

| 16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php





# **AREAS OF**



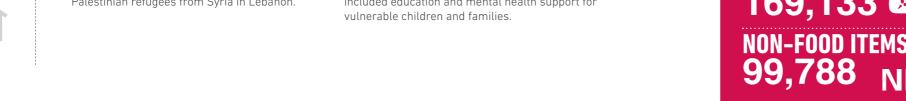






The estimated number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon is 1,070,189 (UNHCR, November 2015), representing the world's highest per capita concentration of refugees. Refugees from Syria, half of them children, now equal a quarter of Lebanon's resident population, which is placing significant strain on resources and host communities in a tiny country overstretched by the crisis. In addition to long-term Palestinian refugees, there are now more than 41,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon.

Islamic Relief Lebanon is working hard to support Syrian refugees in sites throughout the country, as well as vulnerable Palestinian and Lebanese families. In 2015, in addition to maintaining key humanitarian assistance through the distribution of food, winter clothing and other winter items, emergency health care, and provision of safe drinking water, Islamic Relief Lebanon expanded its child protection work and psychosocial support. ~Our programmes also included education and mental health support for

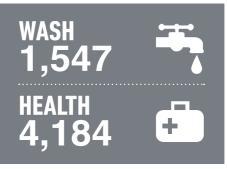


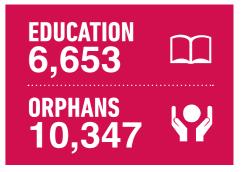
Medical support is provided for Syrian children in Lebanon

# **KEY SECTORS OF**

IN 2015 ISLAMIC RELIEF SUPPORTED 291,652 SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON







TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES 291,652

20



#### **Education and Psychosocial Support**

#### for Syrian Children

In Lebanon 180,419 Syrian refugee children are out of school (49%), with a large proportion having missed several years of education. As in other sectors, existing facilities and resources are unable to meet the huge increase in demand – resulting in a severe shortage of classroom spaces. Issues including different curricula and transportation from home to school present further challenges for Syrian children in getting access to education.

Many reports have shown a significant deterioration in the psychological and social ('psychosocial') well-being of Syrian children affected by events in Syria and neighbouring countries.. Islamic Relief research found Syrian children presenting symptoms of trauma including anxiety, nightmares, depression, bed wetting, aggressive behaviour and low self-esteem.

Combined with the lost years of education, this is leading organisations to warn of a 'lost generation'.

Islamic Relief Lebanon has built a strong programme of Education and Psychosocial Support (PSS) for Syrian refugee children.

In 2014 a project began to increase access to education and PSS in Bekaa and South Lebanon. School facilities were upgraded to enable a greater intake of students with good quality education: classrooms were furnished, a computer room was equipped, and play therapy rooms and an outside playground were established. Volunteers from the local community were trained to run the PSS activities designed to promote the children's development and their relationships with others, increasing their self-confidence and sense of control over their lives.

Islamic Relief Lebanon worked in cooperation with the local community, local aid agencies and councils, shelter coordinators and parents. By 2015 300 children in Bekaa, and 1,000 children and 250 parents in Saida, had been supported with significant improvements in children's well-being. This successful project has since been extended to reach children living in nearby shelters who have not been able to enrol in school.

# Providing a safe educational environment for Syrian Children in Bekaa, Lebanon

Islamic Relief Lebanon is working on furnishing a school in Bekaa for Syrian children by providing it with desks, tables, play facilities, laptops and a psychosocial room.

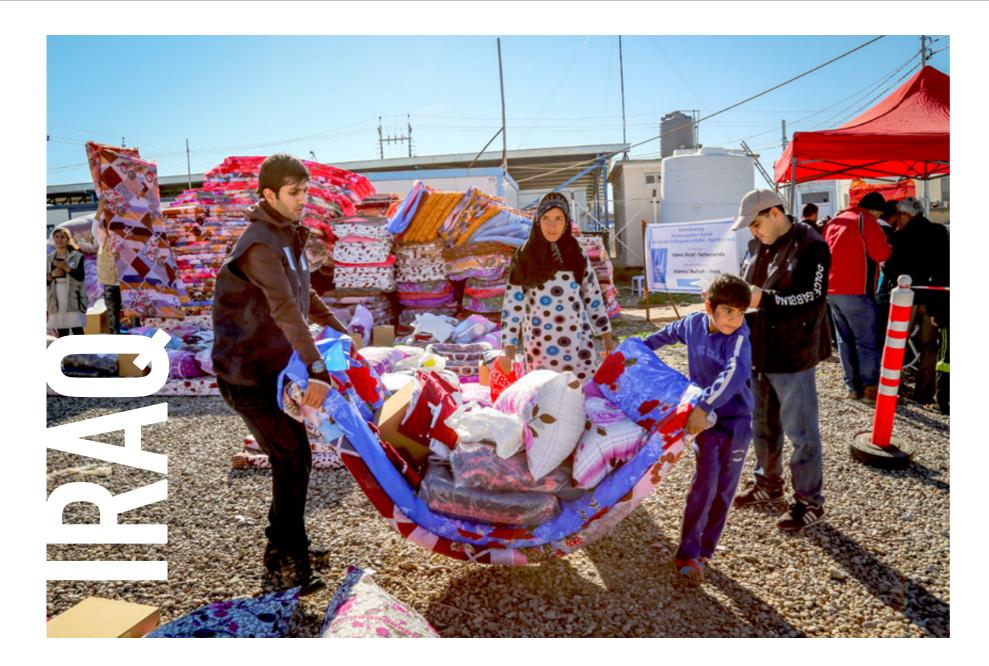
As a result of the unrest in Syria, schools were closed and people fled their homes seeking safety in neighbouring countries. The crisis has forced thousands of children to leave their schools and give up on formal education. Most of the children who have fled with their parents to Lebanon are not enrolled in formal education, with only 13% enrolled in schools. After assessing the needs and priorities of children in the Bekaa area, Islamic Relief Lebanon concluded that education was a high priority for children, especially those living in camps and those who do not have the ability to pay school fees. Among its ongoing education projects, IR Lebanon is now supporting Al-Andalus school in Bekaa and has enrolled 300 Syrian children in school for free.

Enas is a ten-year-old Syrian girl living in Lebanon with her family. They have been in Lebanon since January 2014, living in a tented camp. Enas was not in school because her family did not have the money to pay the fees, but now Enas is enrolled in Al-Andalus school and attending her classes regularly. The school is close to the camp; she walks to school or sometimes takes the bus. "I love painting and football," she says. Being a student in Al-Andalus school has changed her life because now she is doing the things she likes, she can draw and paint whenever she wants, and can play football with her friends in the school playground. In the camp there is no place for her to play.



Psychosocial support activity with Syrian children in Al Andalus School, Lebanon





# AREAS OF INTERVENTION







Since the Syria crisis started, Islamic Relief Iraq has specialised in camp management support, emergency shelter, education, water and sanitation, food security activities, and seasonal programmes. Islamic Relief Iraq has established camps, delivered vital services and assisted in the distribution of food vouchers. Assistance is also being provided to IDPs and vulnerable host community members.

The uncertain security situation in Baghdad and Kirkuk restricts movements, and makes aid distribution particularly challenging.

The large number of IDPs means thatIslamic Relief has to focus on the most vulnerable: we cannot cover the whole community due to increasing needs and a shortage of funds.

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# KEY SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

In 2015 Islamic Relief supported Syrian refugees and IDPs in two main sectors: food and non-food items



F00D 286,819

NON-F00D ITEMS 390,73 NFI

TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

325,892

25

Syrian refugees received assistance with winter items such as warm clothes and blankets in Iraq

# **Providing food vouchers** for Syrian Refugees in Domiz, Iraq

Food is among the most pressing needs of Syrian refugees and their families who have fled conflict, and a significant amount of refugees do not receive any food aid or rations, placing them in an extremely vulnerable position. In late July 2012 a partnership between IR Iraq and the UN World Food Programme launched an emergency project to provide the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in Domiz camp and other areas within Kurdistan with vouchers to enable them to buy food at local markets.

Originally aiming to target 40,000 refugees, this project has surpassed its target and continues today – reaching 67,000 Syrians to date. This project provides refugees with vouchers to a value that ensures that their essential nutritional needs can be met. Syrians have access to a selection of commodities that can be obtained from retailers by redeeming WFP food vouchers, including fresh produce such as milk and cheese which are not normally handed out through emergency food programmes. A thorough selection process has been put in place to ensure that this project targets the most vulnerable refugees.

In a situation in which refugees have resorted to selling assets to provide for their basic needs, these vouchers play a crucial role in protecting livelihoods by helping to prevent the depletion of refugees' assets. In turn, these vouchers also indirectly support the local economy and the livelihoods of market retailers.





MEDICAL

20,847,510



WATER BOTTLES 443,679







**HYGIENE KITS** 

176,490

PIECE KIT

TENTS 2,346

**MATTRESSES** 



**FOOD PARCELS** 1,653,836



8,385



**MEDICAL BAGS** 2,285

29,373











**CANNED MEAT** 339,169



HOSPITAL TREATMENT 147,875 **PATIENTS** 



**EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN** 13,143 CHILDREN



**BLANKETS** 379,159



+ I

**AMBULANCES** 

54



PLASTIC SHEETING 13,519 SHEETS



**RESPONSE 2012 | 2015** 











ITEMS







**CASH ASSISTANCE FOR RENT** 

28,015 INDIVIDUAL











# **CHALLENGES**

- are doubling their efforts to find alternative solutions, including selling their assets to travel to Europe. More long-term livelihood programmes are highly recommended to enable refugees to reduce their dependence on humanitarian assistance.
- The intensity of the violence in this conflict, coupled with access restrictions affecting besieged have restricted Islamic Relief's to some of the most vulnerable people in the country
- · Funds are needed for non-Syrian affected populations, like host communities, internally displaced

## **PLANS**

Lebanon

and vouth.

Increase livelihood interventions for refugees and host communities, with a particular focus on vulnerable women

• Enlarge the successful programme of education and psychosocial support for

Provide additional support for vulnerable families in the cold winter

Iraq

- employment and income generating
- to women of child-bearing age in

- Prepare contingency plan for operating in Mosul, Salahaldin and Al-Anbar if

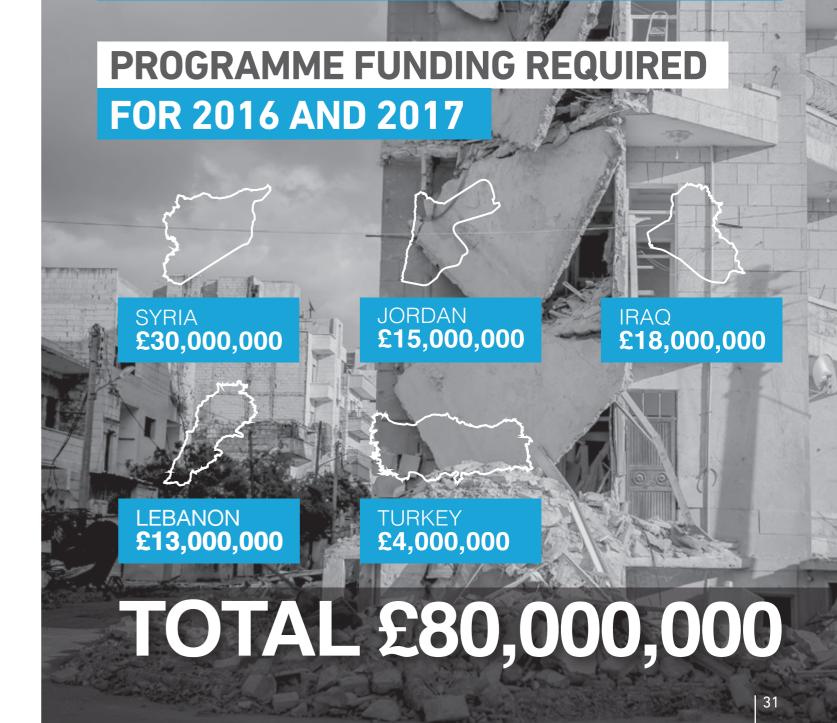
## Jordan

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# **GOVERNMENT ACTION NEEDED**

#### Islamic Relief urges donor governments to:

- Exert pressure on all parties to build on the political will behind the ceasefire in order to protect and extend humanitarian corridors in besieged areas.
- Call on all parties to the conflict to end attacks on civilian targets in violation of humanitarian law,
- Provide more support to aid agencies assisting newly displaced people along the Turkish border.
- Sustain long-term funding for Syria's neighbours to meet the needs of Syrian refugees and their own





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