

The background of the entire page is a photograph of two young children. The child in the foreground is a young girl with dark, curly hair, wearing a dark grey zip-up jacket. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. Behind her, another child is visible, wearing a red and white patterned knit hat and a red sweater. The background is slightly out of focus, showing what appears to be a dusty or rocky ground.

**ISLAMIC RELIEF**  
**SYRIA RESPONSE 2016**



**Cover Photo:** Children playing in one of the new displaced camps in Aleppo.  
Mahmoud is a Syrian child who was deported from Aleppo city to the countryside.

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# Summary

The Syrian crisis has entered its seventh year, with no immediate solution in sight. Civilians continue to suffer from violence, displacement and destruction with **13.5 million people** now in desperate need of humanitarian support. There are **4.6 million people** trapped in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, with limited flexibility to move and restricted access to food, water and healthcare.

More than half of the Syrian population have fled their homes, with a high proportion of children among those displaced. Nearly **5 million Syrians (4,898,353 and rising)** have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Moreover, the crisis is worsening due to the restrictions imposed by neighbouring states on those fleeing Syria, resulting in hundreds of thousands of people trapped in dreadful conditions in border areas.

Despite the best efforts of international humanitarian organisations to support the people of Syria, the situation is becoming increasingly desperate. Supporting those caught up in the conflict is a fundamental and collective obligation, while efforts must also be made by all parties to reach an end to the conflict.

In line with the vision of Islamic Relief's regional strategy, we have put in place initiatives to respond effectively and efficiently to the Syrian crisis. We are delivering wide-ranging programmes in various areas such as **health, food, education, non-food items (NFIs), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** services. We have also strengthened the capacity of our teams so they are better able to respond to emergency situations in Syria and neighbouring countries.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the Islamic Relief team has been working with local partners to reach the most affected people in hard-to-reach areas. In 2016, we were able to support more than three million people in Syria and the neighbouring countries of **Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq**.



A man returns to his home in the city of Aleppo after his journey to find bread for his family.

# Key Figures



**6.3 MILLION**  
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED BY VIOLENCE



**13.5 MILLION**  
PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN  
SUPPORT



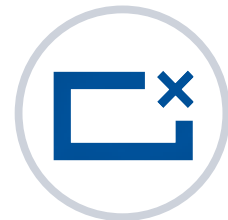
**4.8 MILLION**  
MILLION REFUGEES



**12.8 MILLION**  
PEOPLE IN NEED OF HEALTH  
ASSISTANCE



**4.9 MILLION**  
PEOPLE IN NEED IN HARD-TO-  
REACH AND BESIEGED AREAS



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



**1.75 MILLION**  
CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL



**7 MILLION**  
PEOPLE WHOSE FOOD SUPPLIES  
ARE UNCERTAIN/INSECURE



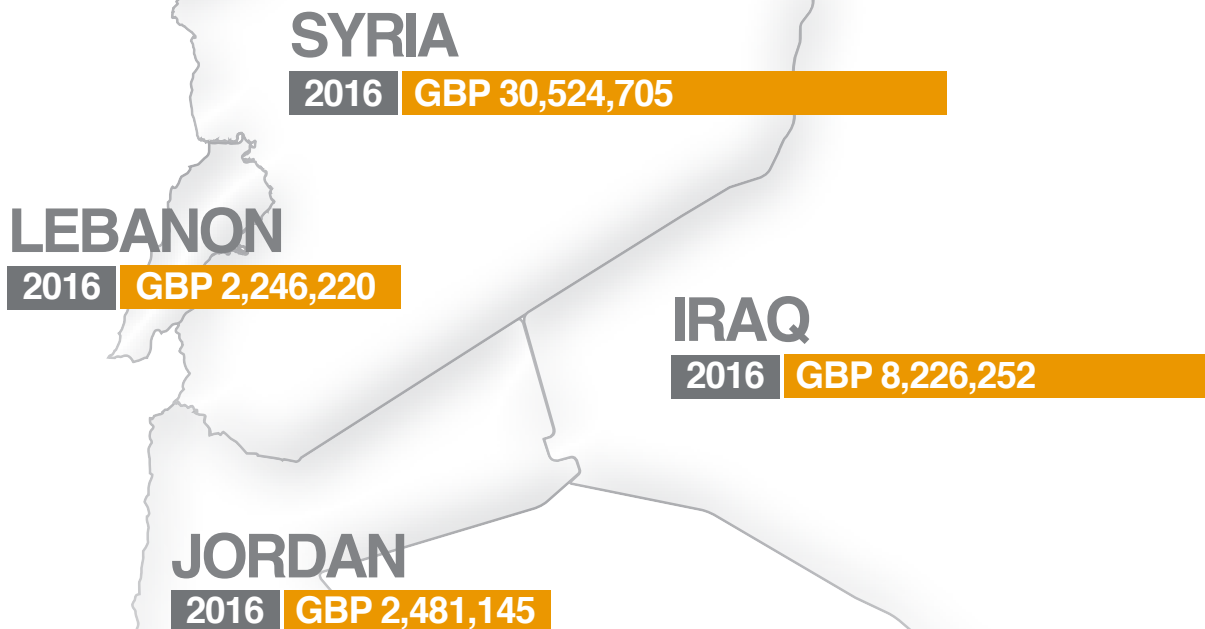
**2.8 MILLION**  
PEOPLE LIVING WITH  
PERMANENT DISABILITIES



Islamic Relief staff provides clean drinking water for families living in a camp in Idlib.

# ACTUAL BENEFICIARIES

2012	1,087,523
2013	2,017,461
2014	4,021,811
2015	4,064,444
2016	3,378,355



# 2016 FUNDING BREAKDOWN

# Syria

“

“I am worried about our needs and our future. I don't have enough money to get food and good clothes so I was very pleased when Islamic Relief responded to our needs and supported us in these difficult conditions.”

*Om Mohamed from Rural Hama*

”

## Islamic Relief and WFP – Years of Partnership

The scarcity of food is a huge issue affecting Syrians. Last year we provided food parcels to 446,789 people in Aleppo, Idlib, Moadamyah and Lattakia as well as to those trapped in the hard-to-reach and besieged areas of Madaya and Ghouta. Our teams on the ground have been well prepared to respond to emergencies and to the needs of newly displaced people in Aleppo after the escalation of the conflict in the city.

We have also supported displaced Syrians by providing Ramadan and Qurbani assistance. In 2016 we supported 502,715 people through distribution of Ramadan food parcels and fresh Qurbani meat.

Significantly, in March 2015, Islamic Relief developed a partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable families inside Syria. Last year, approximately 154,000 people (13,000 families) were supported with monthly food assistance in the governorates of Aleppo and Idlib. We also recognise that children are particularly vulnerable due to the full

and balanced nutrition required for their growth and development. We therefore delivered a supplementary feeding programme for approximately 20,000 children aged under five, increasing the level of nutrients in their diet.

The World Food Programme's Ready To Eat (RTE) programme provides sufficient food to cover a family's needs for one week. The aim is to provide meals to families who have been forced from their homes multiple times, moving from place to place. In the month of December alone, the RTE programme reached 3,857 families (20,000 individuals) who had been displaced from rural Damascus and Aleppo city. Islamic Relief reached them in less than 72 hours, ensuring their basic food and survival needs were met.

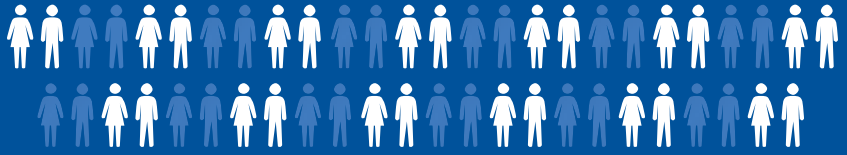
The partnership between Islamic Relief and WFP has made a significant contribution to alleviating the suffering of extremely vulnerable people, including both displaced families and their host communities. The project was implemented both inside and outside of refugee camps.



Syrian children receive food parcels through WFP project.



# Beneficiary numbers 2,817,028



FOOD  
949,504



HEALTH AND  
NUTRITION  
1,609,533



SHELTER AND  
NON-FOOD ITEMS  
152,247



EDUCATION  
900

In partnership with WFP, Islamic Relief is committed to reaching the most vulnerable people in Syria, with a focus on food security and livelihoods. In 2017 Islamic Relief aims to work with WFP to support over 24,000 families (120,000 people), providing monthly food parcels and supplementary food for children. In the future, WFP plans to build the capacity of the communities it serves by transitioning from short-term food assistance to long-term sustainability of livelihoods - a vision shared by Islamic Relief.



A Syrian woman receives a food parcel within WFP project.

## Shelter and non-food items (NFIs)

NFIs such as tents and winter survival kits were distributed to approximately 152,247 people in northern Syria in 2016 to help them survive the bitterly cold winter.



Islamic relief staff preparing tents for the newly displaced people from the city of Aleppo.

## Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Providing access to WASH services has been at the forefront of our mission to help displaced Syrian families. In 2016, 104,844 individuals have been supported with vital support with clean water and sanitation.



Islamic Relief supporting education project in Syrian IDP camps.

## Education and psychosocial support for Syrian children

We have been working on educational programmes to alleviate the psychological suffering of Syrian children, by establishing educational support and child-friendly spaces in northern Aleppo for approximately 900 Syrian children.



Enas is a Syrian child who lost her family during the bombing on the town of Heli, Syria. She is recovering from the wounds after being treated in a hospital supported by Islamic Relief.

## Medical Support

One of our most prominent current health projects in Syria is being supported by the German Humanitarian Assistance (Deutsche Humanitarian Hilfe) organisation. In the first stage of the project, Islamic Relief ensured that health service providers were supported with medical disposables and equipment that have helped approximately 33,000 people so far. The project has also supported the training of nearly 900 health professionals in emergency medical care, basic trauma surgery and other essential medical treatment.

The second stage of the project supported 435,500 vulnerable people with medication to protect against lice, scabies, leishmaniasis (a parasitic condition spread by sandflies) and epidemic diseases. The project also improved the health of patients with chronic diseases, diabetes and breastfeeding mothers while also providing drugs for intensive care units and operating theatres. The project has played a vital role in providing high-quality medical services to the vulnerable people of Syria.

“ We were in the playground when we heard the explosive barrel falling down,” says nine-year-old Ahmed Omar, from Aleppo. “The strike threw me on the ground and I had an injury in my thigh ”

Ahmed was taken to Al Sakhour Hospital - which is supported by Islamic Relief - and underwent surgery that lasted for five hours. His bones were broken and some flesh was removed. Later, he was transferred to several different hospitals for further medical treatment. Ahmed continues: “I woke up in the hospital.

Without the good treatment here, I could have been an amputee.”

Since August 2013 – with the support of over €4.5 million from the Humanitarian Assistance Division of the German Federal Foreign Office – Islamic Relief has implemented projects to revive health facilities, blood banks and training centres as well as providing much needed tools and equipment to medical facilities such as primary health care centres, hospitals and medical points.

In 2016 the project expanded, and it now provides new medical personnel with essential training. The project also supports physiotherapy, trauma and thalassemia centres with medicines, consumables and equipment. So far, approximately 750,000 patients have been assisted in the areas of Aleppo and Idlib as well as the Northern Hama countryside and Lattakia. We have also supported health facilities in Al-Ghouta and Homs with medicines and consumables and one in Bab Al-Hawa with a solar energy system. Overall, we supported 1,609,533 individuals by meeting their health needs in 2016.

## Winter support for vulnerable Syrians

As a part of our emergency response, we provided essential winter survival items to 125,000 individuals inside Syria in 2016. The items included:

**72,450** Blankets

**43,470** Mattresses

**34,980** Plastic Sheets

**14,490** Plastic Mats

**10,570** Winter Clothes kits

**285** Tents



A displaced woman from Azzaz receives urgent winter items from Islamic relief.



Um Muhammad, a displaced woman from Aleppo, is receiving emergency aid from Islamic Relief.

## Fear and Hope

Um Mohammed is a Syrian mother from Aleppo who has been through some shocking moments that turned her life turned upside down. She told our staff on the ground:

“ The last 20 days have been the worst days we have suffered. It’s like the last five years of suffering all at once. Children, women and the elderly are living in fear. We moved from house to house and the airstrikes were non-stop. We couldn’t sleep and the cold weather was also killing us. ”

All of Um Mohammed’s children were injured along with her husband, and one of her sons died from his wounds. In addition to this, most of the time they had nothing to eat. The family finally reached a camp after suffering such great and unimaginable losses. Despite all of this, Um Mohammed said:

“ I thank God for the people who greeted us and gave us basic provisions of mattresses, towels and clothes - and we thank God for having the rest of the family alive. ”

# Lebanon

The crisis in Syria has had a critical impact on Lebanon, with ramifications on the country's security and economy as well as on society as a whole. The host community and institutions in Lebanon have generously opened their doors to more than one million Syrian refugees. The number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon according to the last updated figures from UNHCR is 1,017,433 (47.7% males and 52.3% females).

Although there are many aid agencies providing basic services for the refugees, unfortunately it is still not sufficient for their needs. According to the latest figures from the UNHCR (Syria Regional Refugee Response), the total funding requirements for the aid operation were \$1,902,410,103 but the total funding received was only a little over half that: \$996,629,508.

Islamic Relief has provided support during 2016 through various sectors (WASH, food, NFIs, health, gender-based violence, education and child protection). Our assistance has targeted not only Syrian refugees but also Palestinian refugees and the poorest among host communities in Lebanon.

## Health support for Syrian refugees

Islamic Relief has implemented several health projects in different areas of Lebanon as follows:

### Emergency mobile primary health care service

Islamic Relief, in partnership with Blue Mission, staffed and equipped a mobile clinic to provide outreach health care services for a widely dispersed population of refugees and host communities in South Lebanon.

We had identified an urgent need to help patients with disabilities as they were in need of continuous medical follow-ups, medication and medical supplies. The circumstances of the patients vary from one person to another but if a timely response is not forthcoming, their health could seriously deteriorate.

Areej Mohanad Khadra comes from a family of seven members; her four brothers and father are missing due to the conflict. Areej and her family were displaced from Syria three years ago, and they are currently living in Saida, South Lebanon, in one single rented room.

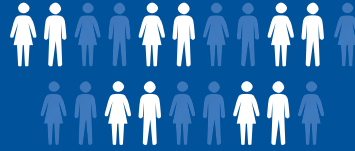
Areej was hit by a car three years ago, causing serious multiple injuries, including trauma to the head and fractured limbs. She is disabled and needs medical consultations, nursing care and treatment every two weeks. She has had many operations in the past and is currently using a wheelchair. A local aid organisation and hospital are helping Areej with physiotherapy sessions for a short period of time. However, she is not receiving help from UNHCR in Lebanon to cover the costs of medication, medical supplies (gauze, betadine, saline and plasters) because her condition is chronic and requires periodic follow-up. Consequently, Islamic Relief conducted an assessment of her needs and has provided her with ongoing consultations alongside her supply of medication and medical supplies.



A Syrian child receives a medical examination through health programme in Lebanon.

# Beneficiary numbers

# 216,767



CHILD PROTECTION AND  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE  
17,036



HEALTH AND  
NUTRITION  
7,197



SHELTER AND  
NON-FOOD ITEMS  
94,475



FOOD  
88,747



EDUCATION  
9,312

## Early Intervention Unit

In January and February 2016, 78 beneficiaries received therapy sessions in our Early Intervention Unit.



A Syrian woman receives health support through early intervention unit in Lebanon.

## Kidney dialysis unit

We established a kidney dialysis unit to help Palestinian and Syrian refugees. The number of patients using the unit is currently 30 per month.

## Ambulance vehicles

The purchase of a fully equipped ambulance is helping to save lives and preserve the dignity of Syrian refugees in Mount Lebanon. Two main areas of need have been identified; the daily need for transportation of emergency cases to the hospital and the need for transportation of deceased bodies to the cemetery.



A Syrian woman receives Ramadan food parcel.

## Food security

We have distributed food parcels to Syrian refugees and to poor individuals from host communities in Lebanon. Approximately 88,747 individuals have been provided with food parcels and 16,717 individuals have received Qurbani meat packs.

## Shelter and NFIs

We have provided Syrian and Palestinian refugees and poor members of host communities with non-food items, reaching approximately 94,475 individuals.

## Gender-based violence

We have set up a project to help women suffering from gender-based violence. So far 734 women in Saida and Mount Lebanon have benefited from various activities such as counselling, life skill sessions, awareness raising and capacity building training.



Life skill sessions for Syrian refugee women in Lebanon.

## Child protection

We have provided training in child protection and psychosocial support (PSS) for PSS workers and teachers. In 2016 13,857 Syrian children in the areas of Bekaa, Saida, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon benefited from drama, therapy and other recreational activities. There are also 1,085 Syrian orphans and 1,445 host community orphans sponsored via our one-to-one sponsorship programme.

## Education

In Bekaa, South Beirut and Mount Lebanon, Islamic Relief has supported 9,312 children with books, uniforms, bags and stationery, while also providing educational equipment to various schools.

# Jordan

According to UNHCR, approximately 4,861,112 Syrian refugees are residing in the neighbouring countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Africa. Jordan is hosting over 657,000 Syrian refugees and 82 per cent of them have settled in host communities, particularly in the urban area of Amman and the northern governorates of Jordan. The remaining 18 per cent are hosted in Jordanian refugee camps.

Due to the arrival of so many Syrian refugees into Jordan – which is already constrained in terms of its resources – increased pressure on local services has caused tensions amongst the Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities, particularly in the northern areas of Jordan (Irbid, Ramtha and Mafraq).

Islamic Relief has been providing life-saving support for refugee families in Jordan since 2012. It is one of the leading organisations responsible for providing humanitarian assistance in northern Jordan, particularly in Irbid, Ramtha and Mafraq, and plays a critical role in supporting both refugees and host communities.



Winterisation items distribution for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

## Food security and winterization

In 2016 we provided 5,237 refugee families (26,185 individuals) with nutritious food parcels, Qurbani meat and fruit kits.

Due to the freezing Jordanian winter, we provided 21,130 Syrian refugees with winter items such as blankets, refill gas vouchers, gas heaters and cylinders, health and hygiene kits and clothes vouchers.

We also provided cash assistance for 827 families (4,135 individuals) so that they were able to pay their rent.

## Health care services

We have supported 452 individuals with their health while another 1,639 individuals have received health awareness sessions and hygiene kits.

## Education and psychosocial support

Last year we supported 176 Syrian students in various areas of Jordan by providing remedial classes, education kits, stationery and cash assistance.



Psychosocial support activities through friendly safe spaces project for Syrian children in Jordan.

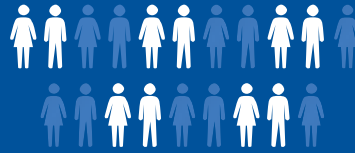
We created a safe space for 1,908 women and children who have suffered neglect and violence so that they could undergo psychosocial support activities. A further 989 individuals have received peace-building sessions and 100 Syrian orphans have received assistance through sponsorship initiatives.



A Syrian child is receiving treatment through Islamic Relief's primary and secondary health care programme in Jordan.

# Beneficiary numbers

# 56,714



CHILD PROTECTION AND  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE  
2,997



HEALTH AND  
NUTRITION  
2,091



SHELTER AND  
NON-FOOD ITEMS  
25,265



FOOD  
26,185



EDUCATION  
176

## Education Support for Syrian Children

One short conversation with Noha – a 14-year-old Syrian orphan girl - is enough to know that she is very active and smart. In the informal education development classroom funded by Islamic Relief Germany, Noha has started her alternative learning programme which helps her to improve her performance at school. In addition to participating in major school subjects, Noha has also undertaken many creative activities.



Noha during her Arabic class in Education support project.

Noha's mother is a widow and is living in an orphanage apartment provided by local charity organisations. She says:

“ Noha is an extrovert and is very inquisitive. She asks me many, many questions, often causing me to laugh as I try to answer her.”

Noha is energetic but also a quiet character. She says:

“I had a problem catching up with my classmates, but now after attending these extra classes I feel like I am one of them again.”

When asked about her favorite school activities, Noha says:

“ I like school. And my favorite thing to do at school is reading.”

Noha also received an educational kit that includes stationery and school items. Noha's mum said:

“In the months since she has been enrolled in the project, Noha's performance has improved, and the cash amount provided by Islamic Relief helped me a lot to survive during these months, I urge you to continue your support to us, thank you Allah, thank you Islamic Relief.”

Noha loves drawing and participated in a competition conducted by Islamic Relief



Noha participating in class activity in English course.

# Iraq



Winterisation items distribution for Syrian Refugees in Iraq.

According to UNHCR (2017), there are 233,224 Syrian refugees in Iraq with most of them concentrated in the areas of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah. The refugees are living in very difficult conditions and are in desperate need of support such as food, NFIs, WASH services and health care. Our team are on the ground, working on a number of different projects to help the refugees.


### Food aid for Syrian refugees in Duhok/Domiz camp


We are operating a food voucher project to support Syrian refugees in the Domiz refugee camp. Each month we distribute cards to 30,545 individuals who are living in the camp. Overall, through we have helped provide food to 60,000 families (234,811 individuals) in Domiz.


### Winter items

We have provided winter items such as carpets, mattresses, blankets and pillows to 2,393 households (13,584 individuals) in Erbil. In addition we have assisted 8,350 Syrian families (50,100) with hygiene kits.

**Beneficiary numbers**  
**287,846**



 **FOOD**  
**23,481**

 **SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS**  
**53,035**





Syrians left their homes in Aleppo due to toxic gases thrown into the neighborhood area from jets.

## Challenges

### Shortage of funds and tough choices

The short-term nature of most projects do not help Syrian refugees to be self-sufficient, which is especially difficult for those living in host communities where there are already very limited resources available. Consequently, sustainable projects are greatly needed to alleviate their suffering on a more long-term basis.

Funding for projects is very limited when compared to the number of people who need assistance, which means that aid workers have to make tough choices about who can and cannot be helped. It is impossible to help all Syrians in need with the resources currently available.

### Access restrictions and the pursuit of peace

The intensity of violence in some parts of Syria, along with restrictions on access to certain areas, has diminished Islamic Relief's ability to provide life-saving support to some of the most vulnerable people in this protracted conflict. It is vital to secure a just and lasting peace so that aid organisations can reach all those in need and people can rebuild their lives and livelihoods.



**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](mailto:irw@irworldwide.org)

[www.islamic-relief.org](http://www.islamic-relief.org)

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

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

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