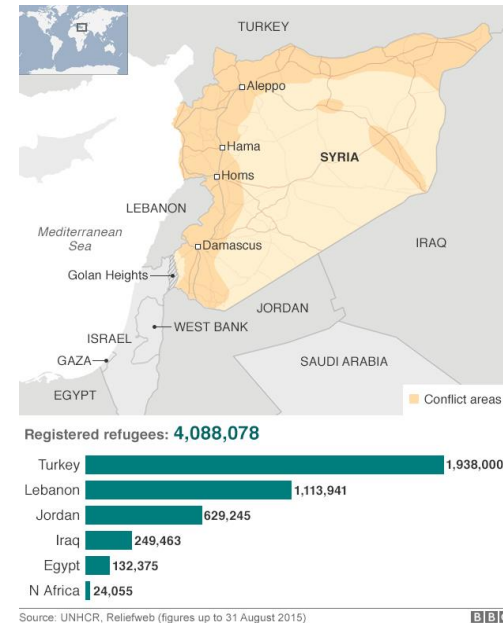


# Syrian Conflict Info Sheet

## Background

- The Syrian conflict began as part of the Arab Spring in March 2011.
- Protests were met with brutal force by the Syrian government and began to escalate and spread across the country.
- In 2013, with ongoing conflict between the Syrian government and opposition forces, the Islamic State began to move in from Iraq and take a foothold in Syria, recruiting from among those who were disenchanted with President Assad's regime.
- In June, 2014 the Islamic State declared itself to be a worldwide caliphate (a single theocratic one-world government).
- Kurdish forces, primarily in the north of Syria and Iraq, are also engaged in this conflict, primarily fighting against the encroaching Islamic State.
- Although this conflict is complex, there are four primary forces: Syrian Government, Free Syrian Army (government opposition), Islamic State, and Kurdish forces.
- Currently, there are over 4 million registered Syrian refugees, more than 7 million internally displaced within Syria, and over 3 million internally displaced Iraqis.



## World Relief Responds

World Relief is serving displaced populations with immediate needs by empowering local churches to minister to these hurting populations in Jordan, Northern Iraq, Turkey, and in the United States.

**Urgently Needed Supplies** – World Relief is providing urgently needed supplies for refugees, including temporary shelters, hygiene items, pots, pans, cooking utensils, and more. Supporting a refugee family with a kit of supplies costs on average \$550 in a place like Northern Iraq.

**Trauma Therapy** – World Relief is empowering local churches to provide therapy for women who have experienced unspeakable atrocities at the hands of Islamic State fighters. One Syrian refugee in Jordan said, “One day a week, I walk into this place and I can breathe.” The cost to provide trauma therapy for one woman for a year is \$100.

**Child Friendly Spaces** – World Relief is working with local churches to provide child-friendly spaces for children to have a safe place to play, receive basic education, process the trauma they have experienced, and be ministered to by loving Christians. This ministry costs approximately \$20,000 to serve 300 children for one year.

**Resettlement Services** – Here in the US, World Relief works with local churches to welcome thousands of refugees every year. Many of these have come as a direct result of this crisis, and we expect that number to rise. World Relief is supporting these refugees with ESL classes, job training, housing support, and relationships with Christians from a local church. Supporting the financial needs of a refugee family making a transition to life in America costs about \$3,500.