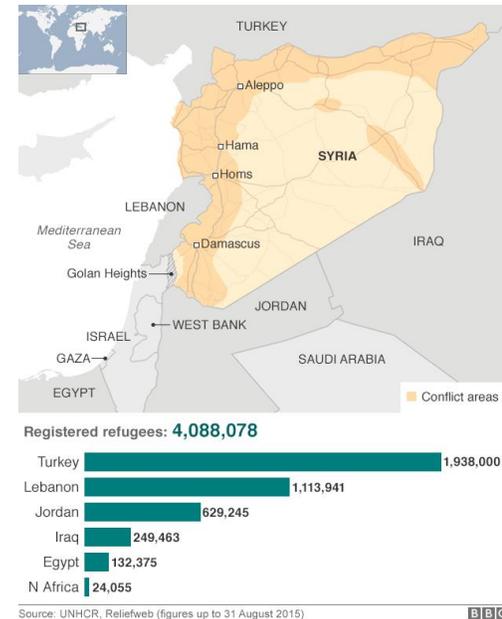


# Syrian Conflict Info Sheet

## 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 both Syria and Iraq are also 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.
- 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.

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

**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, “We have made so many friends. 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, get basic education, process the trauma they have experienced, and be ministered to by loving Christians. This ministry costs about \$120 for each child for one year.

**Resettlement Services** – Here in the US, World Relief works with local churches to welcome thousands of refugees every year. These refugees are supported with ESL classes, job training, house support, and in relationship with Christians from a local church. Supporting the financial needs of refugee family making a transition to life in America costs about \$3,500.