

THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS

- WORST REFUGEE CRISIS OF OUR TIME.
- 13.5 MILLION PEOPLE INSIDE SYRIA ARE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (NOYES, 2016) . FEBRUARY 2019 1.1 MILLION ARE LIVING IN HARD-TO-REACH AREAS.
- 55% OF SYRIAN POPULATION HAVE FLED (5.7 MILLION) OR HAVE BECOME INTERNALLY DISPLACED (6.2 MILLION).
- 1.5 MILLION LEFT WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES, INCLUDING 86,000 PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST LIMBS (BBC NEWS, 2019).
- THE MAJORITY OF THE SYRIAN REFUGEES HAVE LOST MULTIPLE LOVED ONES AND HAVE SUFFERED GREAT TRAUMA.

BEGINNINGS

- OFFICIALLY BEGAN 15TH MARCH 2011 (WORLD VISION, 2019) .
- SYRIA USED TO BE FULL OF LIFE AND HISTORY DATING BACK 8000 YEARS.
- 2000: PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER (BBC NEWS, 2019).
- 2011: PEACEFUL PROTESTS STARTED IN DARAA, AS PART OF THE ARAB SPRING, DEMANDING THE PRESIDENTS RESIGNATION (WORLD VISION, 2019; BBC NEWS, 2019).
- (LED BY STUDENTS) PROTEST WAS MET WITH VIOLENCE BY SYRIAN SECURITY FORCES.
- THERE WAS OUTRAGE. OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS TOOK ARMS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES BEFORE EVENTUALLY ATTEMPTING TO GET RID OF SECURITY FORCES (BBC NEWS, 2019).
- A YEAR LATER THINGS HAD ESCALATED INTO AN ALL OUT CIVIL WAR (WORLD VISION, 2019).

DANGERS

- UNHYGIENIC CONDITIONS
- AIRSTRIKES
- STARVATION
- WARZONE
- PERSECUTION
- CONSTANT TERROR
- NOTHING TO PROTECT AGAINST THE COLD
- CHEMICAL ATTACKS
- CROSSFIRE
- (ACTIONAID UK, 2019; NOYES, 2016; MCCLURE, 2016; WORLD VISION, 2019)
- 500,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED. 55,000 OF THEM ARE CHILDREN.
- INFRASTRUCTURE COLLAPSE. 80% PEOPLE LIVE IN POVERTY, 95% LACK ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE AND HALF OF ALL CHILDREN DON'T ATTEND SCHOOL (WORLD VISION, 2019).
- VIOLATIONS DOCUMENTATION CENTRE HAS RECORDED VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW.
- IT ALSO RECORDED 191,219 BATTLE RELATED DEATHS INCLUDING 123,279 CIVILIANS (BBC NEWS, 2019).



August 2013



February 2018

JOBAR, EASTERN GHOUTA

CONDITIONS

- NO ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL FOOD, CLEAN WATER, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, SUITABLE CLOTHING (AL-MUSTAFA WELFARE TRUST, 2019).
- STANDARD OF LIVING HAS BEEN PUSHED BACK DECADES (WORLD VISION, 2019).
- Wesal
 - Mother killed in an airstrike at 9, father was arrested.
 - Grandmother Azziza brought Wesal and her 3 sisters to Jordan.
 - Azziza has an injured leg meaning she can't work.
 - The family must choose between food or sanitary towels (ActionAid UK, 2019).
- Rasal – 9 years old
 - Fled Syria with her family at 5.
 - Boat capsized on their journey to Lesbos, Greece.
 - Witnessed continuous destruction and violence.
 - Knows only a life of fear and confusion (Noyes, 2016).



Schermbrucker, 2016

JOURNEY

- MOST COMMON AREAS ARE NEIGHBOURING AND NEARBY COUNTRIES: TURKEY (3.6 MILLION), LEBANON (950,000), JORDAN (670,000), IRAQ (250,000) AND EGYPT (130,000).
- 2015 – PEAK IN REFUGEES SEEKING ASYLUM IN EUROPE (1.3 MILLION) (WORLD VISION, 2019).
- RASAL AND ROJIN



The CIA
World
Factbook,
2014



(US CIA World
Factbook,
2012)

TREATMENT

- DENIED BASIC SERVICES SUCH AS EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE.
- LOSS OF POSSESSIONS (NOYES, 2016) .
- NATIONS SUCH AS TURKEY AND LEBANON FEEL THE PRESSURE WITH HIGH REFUGEE INTAKES.
- 2015 – HUNGARY CLOSED ITS BORDER WITH SERBIA. 2 YEAR OLD ALAN KARDI IS FOUND WASHED UP ON A BEACH IN TURKEY.
- CHILDREN ARE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY AFFECTED.
 - LOSS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
 - DISEASE AND MALNUTRITION (CHOLERA, PNEUMONIA)
 - CHILD LABOUR/ CHILD SOLDIERS
 - CHILD MARRIAGE (WORLD VISION, 2019).

NOW

- MORE THAN HALF THE SYRIAN POPULATION HAVE BEEN KILLED OR FORCED TO FLEE (NOYES, 2016).
- 2.9 MILLION SYRIAN CIVILIANS LIVE IN HARD-TO-REACH AREAS WHICH LIMITS KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR NEEDS.
- 70% OF THE SYRIAN POPULATION LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY.
- FIGHTING CONTINUES IN ALEPPO AND IDLEB PROVINCES IN THE NW (3 MILLION CIVILIANS) AND DEIR-EZ-ZOR IN THE EAST (WORLD VISION, 2019).
- DECEMBER 2018, 367, 965 PEOPLE DEAD, 192,035 MISSING/ PRESUMED DEAD.
- MANY GROUPS AND COUNTRIES INVOLVED, EACH BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN REASONS.
- THERE ISN'T ANY SIGN OF AN END, PRESIDENT ASSAD IS NOT WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE OPPOSITION, THE OPPOSITION DEMANDS ASSAD TO STAND DOWN AS PART OF ANY SETTLEMENT.
- IF THERE IS TO BE A SOLUTION, IT HAS TO BE A POLITICAL ONE (BBC NEWS, 2019).



(Map of Syria, 2013)

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

- UK GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTED TO FUNDING NEEDS BUT HAS BEEN CRITICISED FOR THE PITIFUL RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS. CURRENT PLAN IS TO LET IN 20,000 REFUGEES OVER 5 YEARS.
- 2016 – US AND RUSSIA NEGOTIATED A TEMPORARY CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES TO HELP REACH OUT TO CIVILIANS IN HARD-TO-REACH AREAS (WORLD VISION, 2019).
- CHARITES SUCH AS ACTIONAID, AL-MUSTAFA, THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY AND WORLD VISION
- HEALTHCARE
- FOOD
- WATER
- HYGIENE KITS
- SANITARY ITEMS
- SHELTER REPAIR KITS
- EDUCATION
- CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

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