

# I. FIRST RESPONSE.

## Crisis Response & Emergency Relief

### WHY.

The Syrian conflict and its spillover into Iraq is the deadliest conflict the 21st century has witnessed thus far (Aljazeera). As this crisis enters its sixth year, civilians continue to bear the brunt of a conflict marked by unparalleled suffering, destruction and disregard for human life (UNOCHA-a). According to the UN, all parties to the conflict have committed war crimes - including murder, torture, rape and enforced disappearances - and there are accusations of using civilian suffering, such as blocking access to food, water and health services through sieges, as a method of war (BBC). Innocent civilians have been caught in the crossfire of intense fighting, including the military offensives in late 2016 in Aleppo, Syria and Mosul, Iraq. 13.5 million are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNOCHA-a). Civilians are facing food and water shortages, insecurity due to mortar attacks, shelling, bombing and snipers. Families have fled their homes as a result of food and water shortages, lack of medical care and basic services. Many have had their homes taken over by armed groups.

### WHO.

There are over 4.8 million refugees and 6.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs) who have been forced to flee their homes in what is the largest displacement crisis in the world (UNOCHA-a). Fearful for their lives and in an effort to protect their children, families flee their home, often with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Families may be separated and children may be unaccompanied, with a heightened risk of trafficking and exploitation.

### WHERE.

Aleppo and other regions across Syria.  
Mosul and other regions in northern and western Iraq.

### WHAT.

People fleeing conflict need all of the basics to sustain their lives including food, clothing, shelter, medical and health assistance, hygiene items and access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Over winter, temperatures have plummeted and hot meals, health care and winter appropriate clothing and shelter are desperately needed, especially for children. Already dire food shortages and destruction of health facilities is making survival increasingly difficult for thousands of civilians. 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNOCHA-b).

Aljazeera <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/syria-civil-war-explained-160505084119966.html>  
BBC 1 <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>  
UNOCHA-a <http://reliefweb.int/reports/syrian-arab-republic/2017-humanitarian-needs-overview-syrian-arab-republic-enar>  
UNOCHA-b <http://www.unocha.org/syria>  
World Vision <https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/syria-refugee-crisis-faq-war-affecting-children>



## THE COLOUR SISTERHOOD RESPONSE

Our partners are providing front line humanitarian assistance to meet urgent and critical needs of those fleeing conflict and violence. Our partners have history and experience working in the area. They work within established coordination structures, seek to support existing services and source supplies locally to support local economies. They also work in partnership with local organisations, including local churches who have had new opportunities to serve their communities in the midst of this conflict.

You can support the emergency relief efforts of *World Vision, Preemptive Love Coalition & Open Doors* to provide lifesaving assistance to families who have been forced from their homes, fleeing violence.

*"The people who are affected the most by what's going on are just average everyday families who had a normal life before the war."*

**Erin Joyce** - World Vision International

## WORLD VISION

**\$50<sub>AUD</sub> \$38<sub>USD</sub> €35 £31 R489**

Can provide 6 refugee children food for a week.

**\$100<sub>AUD</sub> \$77<sub>USD</sub> €72 £62 R979**

Can provide 3 children and their families winter clothing to survive the cold conditions in tents or temporary shelters through cash and vouchers.

**\$150<sub>AUD</sub> \$116<sub>USD</sub> €107 £93 R1,468**

Can provide 8 children and their families blankets to survive the cold conditions in tents or temporary shelters through cash and vouchers.

**\$300<sub>AUD</sub> \$231<sub>USD</sub> €215 £187 R2,936**

Can provide 2 children and their families food for a month.

## PREEMPTIVE LOVE COALITION

**\$325<sub>AUD</sub> \$250<sub>USD</sub> €233 £202 R3,180**

Can feed 10 families for a month.

**\$978<sub>AUD</sub> \$750<sub>USD</sub> €701 £609 R9,573**

Can provide mattresses and bedding for 50 people.

## OPEN DOORS\* (NON-TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

**\$80<sub>AUD</sub> \$62<sub>USD</sub> €57 £50 R783**

Can provide winter clothing for a displaced family in Syria.

*For more information on the above projects please refer to individual Project Fact Sheets.*

## PRAY.

Together we are praying for a ceasefire and an end to the conflict. We pray that the various armed forces will stand down from personal power agendas and make their people the priority. We pray for safety and protection and for lives to be spared. We pray for access to quality humanitarian assistance and safety for humanitarian actors. We pray for courage, compassion and commitment from world leaders, with the focus on children, families and communities over geo-political agendas. We pray for adequate funding of relief efforts and for effective coordination among agencies responding. We pray for healing from trauma and injury. We pray for the safety, health and wellbeing for the children of Syria and we pray that families will be able to return home and for hope to be sustained.

Mohammed and his family lived in northern Aleppo and fled their house during the deadly fighting there.

They arrived to eastern Aleppo, where they shared a small apartment along with their host family—18 people crammed into a space measuring less than 80 sq. meters.

“We lived through the terrible siege of eastern Aleppo,” Mohammed says. “There was no food unless you paid thousands of Syrian pounds. I went to public parks to collect some herbs for my children. We starved for more than three weeks.”

Mohammed and his family arrived at the Preemptive Love Coalition feeding centre exhausted. He and his family were surrounded with care after fleeing eastern Aleppo, but still he wonders what will come next. He has no job, no home, no food, no clothes.

Mohammed told us how much he is suffering from back pain. He suffers from an illness that prevents him from working, so his wife found a job in a clothing factory to feed their five children.

Mohammed says in a whisper:

“I feel so much pain when I see my children shivering from the cold. I do not know how I can remove the bad memories from their mind.”

But Mohammed is thankful that he and his family have not been forgotten in the Aleppo countryside.

“I have nothing but words of thanks for those providing us help in these difficult times.”