



World Vision Emergency Appeal



SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

When home is a park bench: Syrian refugees find nowhere else to go.

For most children a park bench is a place for picnics, sunshine and fun. But for Yasmin, 4, it's home.

She's been living there with her mum, dad and three older brothers since they fled fighting in Syria for Lebanon's Bekaa Valley with just the clothes on their backs.

They stay by the bench all day and at night they sleep in a local mosque or an open train carriage in the town centre.

Yasmin's mum Layla* says that had no choice but to leave Syria as fighting intensified in recent months. They fled when their neighbour's home was attacked. They were terrified theirs would be next.

*"All I want is shelter for my children.
I don't care about anything else."*

Yasmin and her family are among more than 1.7 million Syrians who have fled to neighbouring countries – including Lebanon and Jordan – since fighting started two years ago. An estimated 4.25 million have been forced out of their homes by conflict, and are now displaced within Syria. In Lebanon, some refugees have been able to find accommodation with friends, and some have built makeshift shelters on rented land. Yasmin's

family hasn't been able to find shelter anywhere. "All I want is shelter for my children," says Layla. "I don't care about anything else."

"My children are always by my side. They ask me, 'when are we going to have a home?'"

Like all parents fleeing Syria for nearby countries, all Layla and her husband Ahmed want is somewhere safe for their children to live. But they couldn't even afford an empty garage. Instead, they call the park, train and mosque home, and scrape together their meagre funds to buy bread for Yasmin and her brothers. It's hard to imagine how they will cope when winter arrives and brings the snow.

"My children are always by my side," says Layla. "They ask me, 'when are we going to have a home?'"

World Vision is working in Jordan and Lebanon, to provide refugee families like Yasmin's with life saving supplies and food vouchers. We are also running Child Friendly Spaces so refugee children have somewhere safe to play and learn.

*Names have been changed to protect the identities of people in this story.



Unlike most children, Yasmin and her three brothers don't get to leave this park and go home. Instead, they call the park bench home since they fled Syria.

**PLEASE HELP OTHERS LIKE YASMIN AND HER FAMILY
THANK YOU FOR PRAYING AND FOR CONSIDERING WHAT YOU CAN GIVE
TO SUPPORT THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS APPEAL.**

Call 13 32 48 or visit worldvision.com.au/syria

