



## 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](http://worldvision.com.au/syria)





- ▲ For most children park benches mean picnics and fun, but for Yasmin, 4, this park bench means home. Yasmin and her family had nowhere else to go after they fled fighting in Syria.

## Situation overview

The UN has called the largest humanitarian appeal in history to help the millions of people affected by the crisis. With no immediate end to the conflict in sight, they face months of uncertainty and not knowing whether they will ever return to normal life.

*"We estimate that 6.8 million people now need urgent help. One in three Syrians [are] in need of urgent humanitarian assistance."* – Valerie Amos, UN Humanitarian Chief

## World Vision's response

World Vision's work in Jordan and Lebanon reaches refugees staying in camps and among host communities. We are assisting by:

- distributing blankets, warm clothing, fuel for heating and cooking, and personal hygiene kits;
- implementing food voucher systems in partnership with the UN World Food Programme that enables the purchase of food items in local shops, to contribute to the local economy;
- operating Child Friendly Spaces to provide refugee children with social and emotional support and a safe environment to play and learn;
- supporting children aged 9-14 years with daily

catch-up classes and fast-track learning program so they can keep up with their education;

- improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene within camps.

**Currently World Vision is working with other humanitarian agencies to build the Azraq refugee camp in the Jordan desert.** Here, enough sand to fill the Sydney Opera House concert hall three times will be moved in order to create shelter and access to basic needs for some 130,000 children and their families fleeing the Syrian conflict.

*"People are fleeing from violence, leaving behind houses, family, jobs, friends and schools," explains World Vision Australia Head of Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs Anthea Spinks. "Half of those fleeing Syria are children, and all the refugees need protection, water, shelter, food and health services."*

\*Data referenced, UNHCR, 02/07/2013.



- ▲ Bordering countries, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey are feeling the pressure of hundreds of thousands crossing borders daily to flee violence.

## Yes, I want to help children and families affected by the conflict in Syria



### 1 I would like to give:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$240 ☐ \$432 ☐ Your choice \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift of \$100 could provide two people with food for a month and a mattress to sleep on.

Funds raised for an emergency appeal are applied to the emergency response and for rehabilitation activities in the affected areas. Should the funds raised exceed the amount required to meet the emergency needs of the people in affected areas, or if there are changes in circumstances beyond World Vision's control that limit its ability to use all funds in the affected areas, World Vision will use the excess funds to help people in other life-changing emergency situations.

### 2 This gift comes from:

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If you're already a World Vision Supporter, please write your Supporter Number here.

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Your gift may be tax deductible depending on your own personal tax position. Please do not attach anything to this coupon. Thank you.

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If another person's payment details are provided below (ie. another person will make the payment(s) for your gift) we will issue the annual tax receipt to that person.

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Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

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OR

☐ My cheque/money order made payable to World Vision Australia is enclosed.

☐ Donate online at [worldvision.com.au/syria](http://worldvision.com.au/syria)

☐ GPO Box 9944 Melbourne VIC 3001

☐ Phone 1300 303 401 (local call cost)

Thank you for caring!