

2016 SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE ANNUAL REVIEW

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ABOUT THIS REPORT:

The information in this report is collated from interdependent but separately managed World Vision country-level responses to the humanitarian crisis in Syria operating under the Syria One Response 2015–2017 strategy. It focuses on the achievements and experiences of the 2016 financial year (October 2015 through September 2016), adding to World Vision's long-term response in Syria and surrounding countries which began in 2012. Previous annual reviews can be found at http://www.wvi.org/publications/4791.

This report is an adaptation of World Vision International's Committed to Children: World Vision's 2016 Syria Crisis Response Annual Review and has been published with permission.

Front cover photo: Syrian mother and daughter in a refugee camp in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.

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A LETTER FROM RICH STEARNS

2016 was an eventful year in the Syria crisis, with an unabated flow of refugees and internally displaced people. The retaking of Aleppo by government forces was top news, with many of us tracking developments not just through traditional news outlets but via social media, directly from people trapped in the besieged city.

The world is certainly focused on Syria, but is it the right kind of attention? Here in the U.S., the conversation tends to coalesce around refugees coming to America. In reality, the vast majority of displaced Syrians and Iraqis are remaining in the region, hoping to go home.

As I speak at churches and conferences around the country, I try to clarify the Christian response to this crisis. We have three clear reasons to care:

- I. First and most compellingly, these children and families are made in the image of God—they're people God loves.
- 2. This may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share the love of Christ in the heart of the Middle East.
- 3. The ancient churches in the region are staggering under the weight of this crisis, and they need our help.

These points may help your friends or fellow churchgoers who are struggling to understand their responsibility in this humanitarian emergency.

I deeply appreciate partners like you who have already answered the call to care for the most vulnerable people in the Syria crisis. Refugees are truly the world's most unwanted, unwelcome, and unloved people. But your support is giving them hope.

This report, which details World Vision's work in fiscal year 2016 (October 2015 through September 2016), shows that thanks to you, World Vision contributed to the well-being of nearly 2.3 million people in and around Syria, including children and families displaced by conflict in Iraq. Our programs include providing food, health care, water and sanitation, education, shelter and household supplies, and protection for children. On page 3, you can see how this work impacts children caught in the middle of the crisis—precious children God loves.

Your partnership with World Vision demonstrates this love for people in their greatest hour of need. Thank you for your support this past year. And please join with me in praying for an end to this devastating crisis.

As partners in Christ's work,



INTRODUCTION

In 2016, World Vision's continued response to the protracted crisis in and around Syria contributed to the well-being of nearly 2.3 million people. Over I million were children. This included Syrians and Iraqis displaced in their own nations, and the families and communities who host them.

World Vision's Syria One Response is a three-year plan (2015–17) for working across multiple contexts affected by the Syria crisis. The landscape for relief and recovery programming is different in each country, requiring dedicated project assessment and management to fit the local context. At the same time, World Vision's central team provides technical advice and coordination support to connect programs cross-border and to monitor and report the international complexities of the emergency as it deepens.

With the assistance of 23 international donors and thousands of private individuals, World Vision worked with more than 200 local partners to meet diverse and challenging needs of families caught up in the crisis.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

In 2016, World Vision introduced a set of standard measures to test whether its projects and programs in the Syria response were bringing their desired changes and benefits. During the measured period of time, the region experienced volatility, particularly in Iraq and Syria. Mass displacement of thousands of people each day continues to challenge community stability and resources. Despite this, measures of health, psychosocial recovery, living conditions (water, toilets, and waste disposal), children's education and school enrollment show that World Vision's work is indeed having a positive impact in communities across five countries. Some examples are shown in the following pages.



WORLD VISION'S IMPACT ON CHILDREN

CHILDREN ENJOY GOOD HEALTH

Food assistance in Iraq has increased the number and diversity of family meals, which leads to improved nutrition and resilience to disease for children.

Cash assistance in Lebanon is helping families seek medical attention when needed, which reduces the impact and recurrence of childhood illnesses.

Through World Vision's water and sanitation projects, over 1.6 million people across four countries, including nearly 800,000 children, have clean drinking water, functioning sewer systems, and shower stations. In Jordan's Azraq Camp, these interventions significantly reduced cases of children's diarrhea.

Hospital repairs, equipment, ambulances, and maternal health services in Syria have markedly increased survival for mothers and their newborns.

CHILDREN ARE EDUCATED FOR LIFE

In Jordan, cash assistance has contributed to increased school attendance.



Early Childhood
Education in Lebanon
provides learning
opportunities
and positive
environments for
children ages 3 to 6.

The Back to School advocacy network in Iraq brought education partners together to increase school enrollment for displaced children, including those without papers.



CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED

In **Lebanon**, families receiving cash assistance were more likely to **prioritize education** and less likely to allow their children to work.

Supported by World Vision's child protection and gender protection program, host communities in Syria are forming networks that recognize and respond to families in crisis, especially families headed by women. Communitybased protection not only reduces risk of violence including sexual violence, but also promotes interaction and social cohesion.

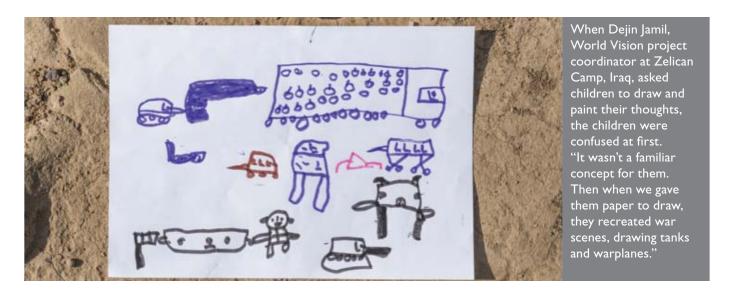
After life-skills classes in Iraq's Child-Friendly Learning Spaces, displaced children showed a better understanding of their rights, vulnerabilities, and the systems in place to protect them—practical knowledge that lessens their risk of abuse and exploitation.

CHILDREN
EXPERIENCE
LOVE

Through informal education in **Lebanon's** Child-Friendly Spaces, children consistently experience improved mental health and overall well-being.







THE CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK

In December 2016, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) estimated that 6.5 million people were displaced within Syria and a further 4.8 million were refugees in neighboring countries. Half of them were children. Although more than 3.1 million Iraqi people also are displaced, over 230,000 Syrians have fled into Iraq in search of security, food, and shelter.

Across Syria and Iraq, infrastructure and social order are badly damaged. Schools, hospitals, roads, and water supplies have all been targeted in the violence and remain in disrepair due to poor aid access and dwindling resources. In host countries, including Jordan and Lebanon, resettlement has become long term, altering the traditional demographics and patterns of life in cities and towns amidst tension and competition over jobs and basic services.

Children growing up in this crisis are struggling to sustain their healthy development and well-being. They face:

- A deficit of food, nutrition, and health services: The World Food Programme has warned that children in Syria now face 'irreversible' health problems as a result of nutrient deprivation. Child and maternal mortality is rapidly increasing in Syria and neighboring host countries.²
- **Child protection vulnerabilities:** Marriage for girls under the age of 18 in Jordanian communities hosting refugees has nearly tripled, from 12 percent in 2011 to 32 percent in 2014.³
- Extreme challenges to continued quality education: Of the 2.4 million refugee children, nearly 900,000 are not in school and within Syria, 2.1 million children are without access to education.⁴ Girls are particularly affected.
- **Long-term psychosocial effects:** Children displaced by violence have vivid and recent memories of warfare, casualties and terror. Without urgent psychosocial recovery support, the current generation could fall into repeat cycles of violence.⁵

FIGURE I. ESTIMATED POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY THE SYRIA CRISIS, SEPTEMBER 2016

IDP= internally displaced persons

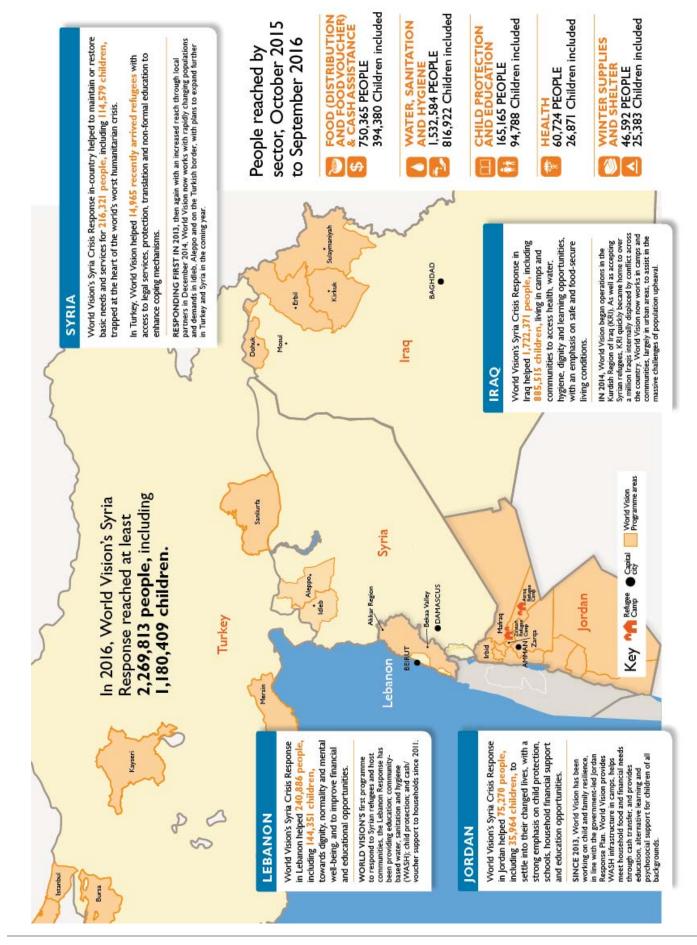
Syria IDP	6.5 million
In need, Syria	13 million
Iraq IDP	3.1 million
Syrian refugees in Iraq	230,000
In need, Iraq	10 million
Syrian refugees in Jordan	655,000
Syrian refugees in Lebanon	I million
Syrian refugees in Turkey	2.76 million

I 'Lack of Food Means Syrian Children Face "Irreversible" Health Issues, Says UN,' *The Guardian* (14 December 2015), https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/dec/14/syrian-children-lack-of-food-irreversible-health-issues-un-world-food-programme.

² UNOCHA, 2015 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (June 2015), http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2015-Iraq-Humanitarian-Response-Plan%20%281%29.pdf. 3 Girls Not Brides, 'Child Marriage and the Syrian Conflict: 7 Things You Need to Know' (3 February 2016), http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage-and-the-syrian-conflict-7-things-you-need-to-know/.

⁴ The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 'UNHCR Reports Crisis in Refugee Education' (15 September 2016), http://www.unhcr.org/en-au/news/press/2016/9/57d7d6f34/unhcr-reports-crisis-refugee-education.html.

⁵ UNOCHA, 2015 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (June 2015), http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2015-Iraq-Humanitarian-Response-Plan%20%281%29.pdf.



CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION

In 2016, World Vision reached 165,165 people, including 94,788 children, through education and child protection initiatives.

Children face immense needs in the face of this World Vision recognizes that it is essential to support more than a child's physical needs. Child-focused programs also must care for their self-esteems and psychosocial needs, protect them from abuse and neglect, and foster healthy mental development.

Helping children learn is a top priority—guiding them to interact safely with teachers and other children, to assimilate without fear into their new communities, and to develop basic academic knowledge as a pathway to mainstream schooling. World Vision also advocates for children's rights through teachers and community volunteers who strengthen 'safety net' monitoring of children at risk.

Child-Friendly Spaces and informal education

- Along the Turkey–Syria border,
 World Vision provides opportunities
 for children and young people to
 learn languages (English, Turkish and
 Arabic), computer skills, web design,
 photo editing, basic beautician skills,
 and hardware skills. Girls and women
 are priority clients for the classes.
- In northern Syria, World Vision has been operating 23 Child-Friendly Spaces and three women's and girls' safe spaces. Both models provide safe, social, and instructive environments for internally displaced people adjusting to their new lives. By September 2016, 13,328 children and 490 women and girls had participated in activities at these spaces.

 At Iraq's Child-Friendly Spaces, life skills and resilience courses helped children learn how to make positive choices while living in their challenging context, including practicing conflict resolution, avoiding smoking and petty theft, and taking pride in self-presentation and hygiene. Teachers at government schools noted improved behavior and academic performance in children who attended Child-Friendly Spaces, along with marked improvements in attention span and attitudes.

Remedial learning and support for children returning to school

- Through No Lost Generation,
 World Vision created alternative
 learning opportunities for children
 of all ages. Parents learned home schooling techniques, teachers were
 trained in early childhood education
 principles, and e-learning hubs were
 developed for digital interaction.
 All strategies will support children's
 abilities for integrating into schools
 when the time comes.
- World Vision partnered with the government in Dohuk and Kirkuk, Iraq, to rehabilitate schools and open up more spaces for newly displaced children. About 30 percent of children in these schools are from internally displaced families.

FIGURE 2. POPULATIONS REACHED IN 2016: EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION

Country	People	Children
Lebanon	86,527	55,377
Jordan	27,978	15,048
Iraq (KRI)	10,850	10,073
Syria	24,945	13,328
Turkey	14,865	962

THE NO LOST GENERATION (NLG)

multi-agency initiative started in 2013 to focus on three under-served sectors: Education, Child Protection and Youth Engagement. World Vision has been a key NLG actor since the start of the crisis, recently appointing a Head of NLG as part of the Regional Syria response team to bring a strategic approach and coherence to NLG programming. World Vision is the co-lead on the Regional NLG Working Group held monthly in Amman, Jordan. Working closely with UNICEF, World Vision helps to ensure coordination, consistency, and the sharing of best practices across all actors in the response.

Early childhood education

- In urban Bekaa, Lebanon, World Vision's early childhood education center invites children up to the age of 6 to participate in learning, often for the first time. World Vision built a new facility and refurbished nine classrooms to offer online learning and computer training. Parents provided positive feedback when surveyed: 99 percent of children liked the staff, 98 percent felt safe there, 96 percent enjoyed the activities, and 97 percent of parents believed the approach to learning would help their children return to the school system in the future.
- As part of Aktion Deutschland Hilft's Let Us Learn project in Iraqi camps, World Vision's mobile library brought children new opportunities to learn at their own pace.
 Many had never held a book until they entered this library.

Child protection and peacebuilding through sports

 In 2015, World Vision constructed soccer fields in the Azraq Camp. Over the past year, up to 35 different children's clubs used the fields daily, including girls' teams and children ages 5 to 17. While families used the fields, World Vision conducted child protection awareness sessions with children and their caregivers. Children developed messages on positive parenting and child protection, which were sent out via SMS to all enrolled caregivers.

Community-based child protection networks and referral systems

- In Jordan, eight community child protection committees with 124 volunteer members have been established in Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq, and Irbid. Together they are conducting outreach and referring child protection cases when required.
- Through Aktion Deutschland Hilft, World Vision supported Child Protection Councils in two Iraqi camps.
 Since October 2015, these community-based committees have campaigned on child marriage, child labor, health (during the October 2015 cholera outbreak), and child rights. They also referred 30 children to counseling and protective services.

Humanitarian protection and reduction of gender-based violence

- In northern Syria, World Vision works with local partner Syria Relief to help host communities recognize and respond to gender-based violence. Specialized support is made available to women who have been widowed and children with injuries or disabilities. Girls and women are encouraged to take part in livelihoods training and compete in the job market.
- To refugees sheltering along the Turkish border with Syria, World Vision is providing significant resettlement support. This includes legal advice, translation and registration assistance, and help with the paperwork required for children's inclusion in schools and services.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

Remedial education is part of the formal education system in Jordan, but class space is limited. World Vision has been working with the Government of Jordan to increase the numbers of children from all backgrounds who can benefit from the classes, focusing on school subjects of Arabic, English, and mathematics. World Vision provides these classes as part of a broader education support program under the No Lost Generation: Stand By Me project, funded by Global Affairs Canada. The goal is to enable children and youth to have sustained and improved access to appropriate education opportunities in a protective learning environment.

"This program not only impacted the academic achievement of the students, but I also noticed that after participating in this program, some students became more social, positive, and had more initiative," said Mrs. Suad, the principal. She reported that many parents asked for these classes to be available on an ongoing basis.



Students in the No Lost Generation remedial

FOOD AND CASH PROGRAMS

In 2016, World Vision reached 750,365 people, including 394,380 children, through food and cash programming.

Approaches to household economic assistance in emergencies are rapidly evolving, based on strong evidence that the best and most satisfying way for families to re-establish themselves is with cash support. World Vision provides cash assistance through unconditional food purchase vouchers or cash conditional to school attendance. With cash assistance comes stringent accountability, including monitoring of shops and markets to ensure shop owners are not inflating prices, as well as interagency coordination to maintain consistency in targeting and reaching the most vulnerable.

In 2015, the World Food Programme (WFP) reduced food allowances to some families in Lebanon and Jordan due to funding shortfalls. Effects of that reduction continue to be felt. Though many families say that the current amount is not sufficient for monthly needs, they remain grateful for the relief that is still available. In October 2016, the WFP confirmed it would partly restore its household voucher value.

Unconditional cash transfer

 ATM card distribution for cash transfer to vulnerable households in Jordan has been well received, with 99 percent of recipients satisfied with the method used. While the cash is not always enough to cover unexpected household costs, 64 percent of families surveyed said it covered monthly basic needs.

Conditional cash transfer

 Cash assistance specific to school attendance in Jordan has helped 915 families send their children to school on a regular basis, while direct distribution of school stationery and backpacks has been welcomed and appreciated by the children. A survey in June 2016 found that children in 91 percent of families showed more commitment to school attendance after receiving this assistance.

Food vouchers

 World Vision, the WFP, and other agencies worked in coordination to deliver local market food vouchers to more than 30,000 internally displaced families in towns across the Kurdistan region of Iraq. They used World Vision's Last Mile Mobile Solutions, a digital registration system for cash and goods distribution, which has since become the government's preferred system for managing displacement data.

Direct food distribution

- In partnership with the WFP in Iraq, World Vision distributed over 6,000 metric tons of food, including wheat flour, chick peas, fava beans, oil, salt, and sugar to about 30,000 households each month.
- In Jordan, World Vision partnered with Aktion Deutschland Hilft to provide school food (date bars and juice), while the Government of Taiwan worked with World Vision to distribute 3,900 metric tons of rice to families in need.

FIGURE 3. POPULATIONS REACHED IN 2016: FOOD AND CASH

Country	People	Children
Lebanon	295,475*	177,285
Jordan	92,227	43,042
Iraq (KRI)	354,575	169,769
Syria	8,088	4,284

* This figure is higher than the overall number of unique beneficiaries for Lebanon due to overlap between sectors, which can result in double counting.



THE ADDED VALUE OF CASH PROGRAMMING

Rather than providing communities with assistance through in-kind support, such as food aid or non-food items, cash based programming meets needs by providing cash support. Cash assistance allows families to meet their unique needs, allowing World Vision to provide more effective and efficient assistance. Empowered with cash, families can prioritize their greatest needs, and mothers and fathers remain the leaders in their own family's recovery. In addition, a strong local market is vital to communities attempting to recover from a crisis. By injecting cash into a local economy, people can turn to their community market to meet their needs. Strong markets mean more jobs, and employment is vital for recovery.

Evidence overwhelmingly shows that people use cash aid wisely, with expenditure on food and productive assets increasing. For example:

Food Security: Before World Food Programme cash transfers began in Bekaa, a survey found that 93 percent of families were rationing food to ensure it could last the day, while 82 percent of parents were skipping meals so their children had enough. After the assistance, the survey found that those levels had declined significantly, to 38 percent and 58 percent respectively.

Schooling and Child Protection: The final report of the Lebanese Cash Consortium found that recipients of cash transfers were more likely to send their children to school than non-recipients (60.7 percent compared to 51.5 percent) and less likely to allow their children to work (7.3 percent compared to 13 percent).

Health Care: After food, families rated medical expenses as their most pressing need. Caregivers receiving cash assistance were more likely to take their children to a doctor (50.7 percent compared to 46.1 percent), while non-recipients were more likely to self-treat through pharmacy purchases (46.1 percent compared to 40 percent).

LAST MILE MOBILE SOLUTIONS (LMMS)

Food and food voucher distribution in Iraq has been made simpler by World Vision's Last Mile Mobile Solutions, now adopted as the preferred distribution method across food relief agencies. Together these agencies reach internally displaced families and other vulnerable families, often from minority backgrounds, who are struggling to meet their basic needs. Last Mile Mobile Solutions works through barcode technology,



with each family presenting a unique card to claim its allocated food or vouchers. Last Mile Mobile Solutions is twice as fast as previous distribution methods, able to assist between 1,000 and 1,200 families a day. If cards are lost, it is easy to cancel and replace them.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In 2016, World Vision reached 1,532,583 people, including 816,922 children, through WASH initiatives.

As populations grow, towns and camps struggle to provide clean water and sanitation for their residents. World Vision's international WASH experts manage large-scale infrastructure projects, including drainage in camps, sewage pipeline and plumbing for latrines, clinic construction, and drilling boreholes. All WASH programs also include household hygiene elements, helping families to understand the importance of good hygiene to their health and ensuring availability of water storage, soap, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, and other basic dignity supplies.

Even in areas of high population movement, World Vision works with local stakeholders to ensure that decisions are community led and to fill the gaps identified by the people in greatest need. Some needs are ongoing, such as trucking in drinking water, but others, such as drilling boreholes and equipping mobile clinics, have the potential to become community-owned resources in the future.

Rehabilitation of schools, hospitals, and other public buildings

- In Jordan, World Vision helped expand schooling opportunities through water and sanitation rehabilitation, as well as training community staff on maintenance of the new systems.
- In Iraq, World Vision partnered with Handicap International and the Government of Finland to address issues of access, acceptance, and inclusion for people living with a broad range of impairments.

Drainage and sanitation in camps

 World Vision continues to provide WASH support to the crowded camps of Za'atari and Azraq in Jordan, an ongoing arrangement that serves thousands of people each year.

Exceeding minimum standards in camps and communities

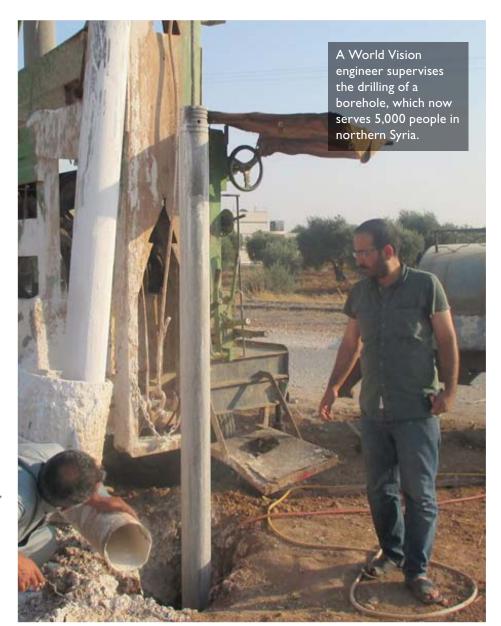
 World Vision follows humanitarian principles and best practices in all of our work. In the informal tented settlements of Bekaa, Lebanon, and the internal displacement camps of northern Syria, World Vision far exceeded the minimum standards (called SPHERE requirements) in our water and sanitation projects.

Municipal water supply

- World Vision provided a sustainable source of household water to people in four locations of Iraq by drilling new boreholes and attending to reservoir and pump repairs. People's reliance on trucked-in water was reduced to almost zero. Previously, between 5 and 50 percent of households had collected their water manually. But the installation of overhead tanks by World Vision and other humanitarian agencies brought water directly to over 98 percent of households surveyed.
- In Aleppo Governorate, Syria, World Vision oversaw large-scale rehabilitation projects including boreholes, pumps, generators, and other water infrastructure with the potential to benefit 250,000 people long-term.

FIGURE 4. POPULATIONS REACHED IN 2016: WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Country	People	Children
Lebanon	69,090	42,145
Jordan	45,492	23,163
Iraq (KRI)	1,175,097	623,257
Syria	238,768	126,829
Turkey	4,137	1,528



Household hygiene needs

- Distributions of hygiene kits in Lebanon and Syria have helped families, particularly girls and women, maintain personal hygiene in difficult living conditions, including tented settlements.
- World Vision's WASH
 programming in Iraq incorporates
 distribution of supplies and
 educating families on water storage,
 handwashing, disinfecting, and
 personal hygiene. This was of
 particular importance to health
 initiatives during the October
 2015 cholera outbreak in Erbil.

GROWING PRESSURE FOR WATER

Water access was an urgent humanitarian priority for the town of Khanke, Iraq, in 2016. Even before the conflict, Khanke's water storage tank had limited capacity. But then the influx of displaced people doubled the town's population. People could access water for only two or three hours every few days.

World Vision partnered with a local mechanical engineer, Ibrahim Yazdeen, to rapidly rehabilitate a nearby water treatment facility, which improved the quantity and quality of water for the community.



Sanaa, with her youngest son Salman, 2, next to their water tank in Khanke.

WINTER AND HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

In 2016, World Vision reached 46,592 people, including 25,383 children, with winter and household supplies.

World Vision conducts regular distributions of goods to protect families from harsh weather, to reduce risks of illness, and to ensure that households can function with dignity.

Winterization kits

• In Syria, Iraq, and Jordan, families received winter kits of essential items including stoves, blankets, mattresses, clothes for children, fuel, and fuel vouchers.

Camp and community supplies

• In Syria, World Vision is playing a significant role in shelter and non-food distributions for camps and communities, with the support of donors such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Solar power and fencing in makeshift camps provide extra safety and security for residents. Local teams supported host families with training and supplies to rehabilitate damaged homes, including the distribution of 4,000 shelter repair toolkits.

Baby kits and hygiene kits

· World Vision provides monthly distributions yearround of essential items that help families care for infants and keep the whole family in good health, reaching over 50,000 people across five countries.

FIGURE 5. POPULATIONS **REACHED IN 2016: WINTER** AND HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

Country	People	Children
Lebanon	8,049	4,909
Jordan	2,566	1,263
Iraq (KRI)	11,545	6,057
Syria	24,432	13,154



HEALTH PROGRAMS

In 2016, World Vision reached 60,724 people, including 26,871 children, through health initiatives.

As a result of military targeting of hospitals, Syria and Iraq have lost many vital healthcare services and qualified staff. Until they can be restored, the outlook for family health is bleak. Basic clinic services are urgently required to address cases of malnourishment, injury, and disabilities in children. Pregnant women and mothers with young children are going without basic maternal and child services; children of all ages are vulnerable to common illnesses and undernutrition.

Rebuilding systems is a long-term proposition. In 2016, World Vision worked with local governments in KRI and northern Syria to understand and fill gaps, particularly in rehabilitation of hospitals and provision of antenatal and early childhood facilities.

Hospital repairs and equipment

 Five clinics built by World Vision in 2015 in Sulaymaniyah, KRI, are fully functioning and providing services to 5,000 people each month. The clinics also conduct health and hygiene promotion activities and give hygiene kits to families in need, reaching thousands of community members. Ambulance provision and emergency referral services, including obstetric care, continue to save lives.

Systems and training, with an emphasis on maternal and child health

 In Idleb, World Vision and local partner Syria Relief and Development provided gynecological and antenatal services for mothers and children, as well as reproductive health information to the community. This year the

- project will also train local midwives for long-term improvements to maternal services in Idleb.
- In Iraq, World Vision's communitybased Early Warning and Alert Response Network is helping the Department of Health monitor illnesses and nutritional status in children.

Mobile clinics and community health

- Local partner Violet in Syria
 runs a primary health care clinic
 that reaches more than 1,000
 people every month. Its staff and
 equipment have been invaluable in
 responding to maternal and child
 emergencies, including saving the
 lives of babies through caesarians.
- Women and Young Child Centers in Iraq and Syria provide community spaces for women who are caring for young children, providing privacy to breastfeed as well as opportunities to learn about nutrition and self-care. When the Syria center's services were interrupted by air strikes in 2016, the activities continued through home and camp visits until it was safe for the center to reopen.

FIGURE 6. POPULATIONS REACHED IN 2016: HEALTH

Country	People	Children
Lebanon	9,283*	_
Iraq (KRI)	34,572	17,766
Syria	16,869	9,105

^{*} Activities include training of caregivers, teachers and community actors in health-related topics.



NEONATAL SUPPORT

Lack of facilities and specialist health care in northern Syria is driving a catastrophic health crisis, increasing mortality rates for newborns, particularly babies born prematurely. Through an ECHO-funded Idleb project, World Vision was able to equip the local Al-Sayeda Mariam Hospital with incubators to protect vulnerable newborns.

When Elham, a mother in labor at 35 weeks, was referred to Al-Sayeda Mariam Hospital, her baby, Mohammed, was the first to be placed in a life-saving incubator. His parents had fled violence in Hama Governorate with his older brother, age 2. The family had no savings or income, and no way to access specialist care. But Al-Sayeda Mariam Hospital was ready for this emergency. Delivered by emergency C-section, Mohammed was an underweight baby with breathing difficulties and low resistance to

Inside the incubator, tiny baby Mohammed could breathe more easily and avoid neonatal infection.

disease and infection. Inside the incubator, he was kept in a warm, humid, and sterile environment until his health stabilized.

Project coordinator for the ECHO/World Vision partnership, Dr. Tarek Mousa, is encouraged by the achievement. "It is really important.... Providing such medical services could be life saving for many neonates in north Syria, and it is really an amazing accomplishment providing health services in such an environment."

EQUIPPING CHURCHES TO SERVE REFUGEES

Churches across the Syrian crisis are overcoming the darkness of war as they serve families that have been forced to flee violence in Syria and Iraq.

In a vast sea of need, Christians in Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan are striving to live out God's call to care for the weak and vulnerable, reflecting Christ's light and demonstrating His love.

In 2016, gifts from private donors in the U.S. allowed World Vision to break new ground in our work within the Syrian crisis by formalizing partnerships with churches and Christian organizations across the region. World Vision's goal is not only to serve refugees by supporting the churches in their outreach initiatives, but to also strengthen church partners with strong skills for future ministry work.

In the year ahead, these partnerships and projects will continue to expand, significantly growing World Vision's reach to refugees and displaced families.

Lebanon

- World Vision established a partnership with Resurrection Church Beirut to conduct literacy and math programs for Syrian and Iraqi children (5 to 9 years old). In 2016, World Vision supported the basic rehabilitation of their center, conducted capacity building, and initiated classes for children.
- After the Christian village of Qaa experienced a terrorist attack that killed or seriously injured 35 people and destroyed the village's only ambulance, World Vision partnered with the Greek-Catholic Archbishopric in north Bekaa to replace their ambulance and provide financial support to the families of those who were killed or injured to help cover medical costs and living expenses.
- The Lebanese Society for Education began a project that will address child protection issues affecting the refugee community, particularly child labor and physical abuse.

Iraq

- In the Kurdistan region of Iraq, World Vision is focused on supporting Christian Iraqi youth who fled ISIL advances in 2014. These youth are the future of a dwindling church in Iraq, but they are struggling to remain hopeful. In 2016, formal partnerships were established with three churches in the city of Erbil.
- World Vision and our partners launched a program that will help youth gain job and life skills, provide them with mental health support, and create opportunities for their spiritual growth
- Alongside the youth empowerment project,
 World Vision is working with parents in Christian
 communities using a Bible-based curriculum called
 Celebrating Families. This curriculum teaches
 families how to create a safe and nurturing
 environment in which children can grow in their
 faith.

Jordan

In Jordan, World Vision is working with a church-based agency called Messengers for Peace to provide education and protection services for out-of-school children. In 2016, 679 children gained literacy, math, and life skills at two centers. Additionally, 544 children received psychosocial support and 4,575 community members received education on child protection and gender-based violence.

RIGHTS AND JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

Advocacy is core to World Vision's strategy for children's well-being.

For the children of Syria, World Vision works in partnership with a broad range of UN, government, and non-government actors to influence the systems and structures that allow the gross injustice of this crisis to continue. The advocacy response combines policy expertise with coordination of influential voices to build compelling arguments for action on the Syria crisis.

For the past two years, World Vision has co-chaired the Syria INGO Regional Forum Advocacy Working Group, advocating for unimpeded access to humanitarian aid in besieged areas in Syria. World Vision has also called for greater protection of Syrian refugees in all host countries, in line with obligations under humanitarian law, and recognizing the barriers many of them face in accessing basic rights without paperwork or possessions.

A fundamental and consistent call from World Vision is to secure children's rights to education. In 2016, through alliances such as No Lost Generation in Jordan and Lebanon, the International Non-Governmental Organization Forum in Jordan, and Back to School in Iraq, advocacy on this issue helped to create more than 1,500 additional places in government schools for children from internally displaced or refugee families.

WORLD VISION ADVOCACY

On behalf of the people affected by the Syria crisis, World Vision advocated for:

- Humanitarian access in besieged areas
- Protection of refugees in host countries
- Increased access to schooling and work opportunities
- Protection of children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence

ADVOCACY IN THE U.S.

In 2016, World Vision U.S. publicly highlighted how children are affected by conflict to over 530 key government officials and hosted 59 special events, briefings, and high-level meetings with U.S. Senators, the State Department, and USAID.

In addition, World Vision supporters contacted all 535 members of Congress, the president, and the vice president about the Syrian refugee crisis. Over 3,000 grassroots advocates contacted their elected officials nearly 13,000 times about the importance of humanitarian relief.

For example, World Vision hosted a summit for nearly 50 pastors from 22 states. They met with 25 members of Congress and congressional offices about critical foreign assistance funding, including humanitarian relief.

Through these efforts, World Vision successfully secured congressional appropriations language that recognized, for the first time, the crucial need for programming to protect children in humanitarian crises from all forms of harm, including child marriage and child labor.

Policy development that furthers the impact of World Vision's child-focused programming is a



Pastors from 22 states met with members of Congress to discuss the importance of humanitarian relief.

top advocacy priority. At strategic points in the past year, World Vision provided recommendations to key government stakeholders on urgent issues affecting children. For example, when the military offensive began in Mosul, Iraq, World Vision advocated for the protection of civilians, particularly children, during armed conflict.

In 2017, World Vision U.S. will continue to work closely with the new presidential administration and congress to ensure funding for critical humanitarian relief accounts that serve those affected by major conflicts and natural disasters.

Financial summary

IN 2016, WORLD VISION'S SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM SPENT

\$117,969,664

DISBURSED AS SHOWN IN FIGURE 9.

\$4,666,580 WAS CARRIED OVER AT THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2016.

FIGURE 7: 2016 FUNDING BY COUNTRY

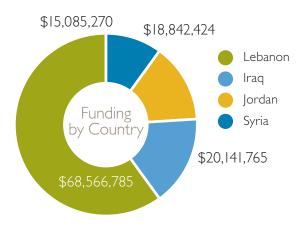


FIGURE 8: FUNDING BY SOURCE, WORLD VISION SUPPORTERS WORLDWIDE

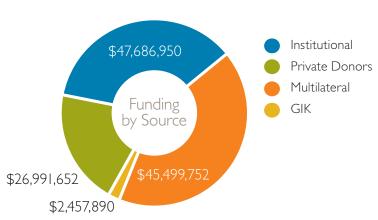
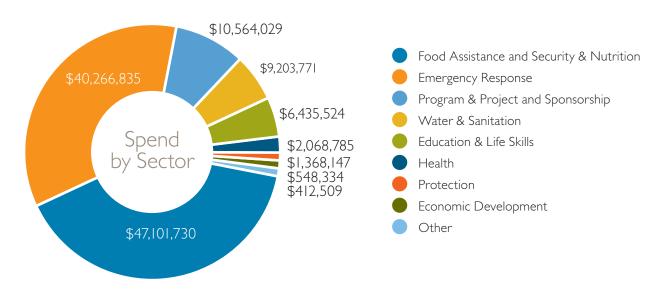


FIGURE 9: 2016 SPEND BY SECTOR





YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Across the Syria crisis, there are school-aged children who were born into this conflict. Violence, heartache, and uncertainty are all they have ever known.

But through your support, World Vision is mitigating suffering and sometimes—such as through informal schooling in Jordan's Azraq camp—renewing stability, hope, and joy for children and their families.

Together, we continue to rise to this challenge for, in the face of such immediate suffering, doing nothing can never be an option. —Wynn Flaten, Director of World Vision's Syria Response



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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.