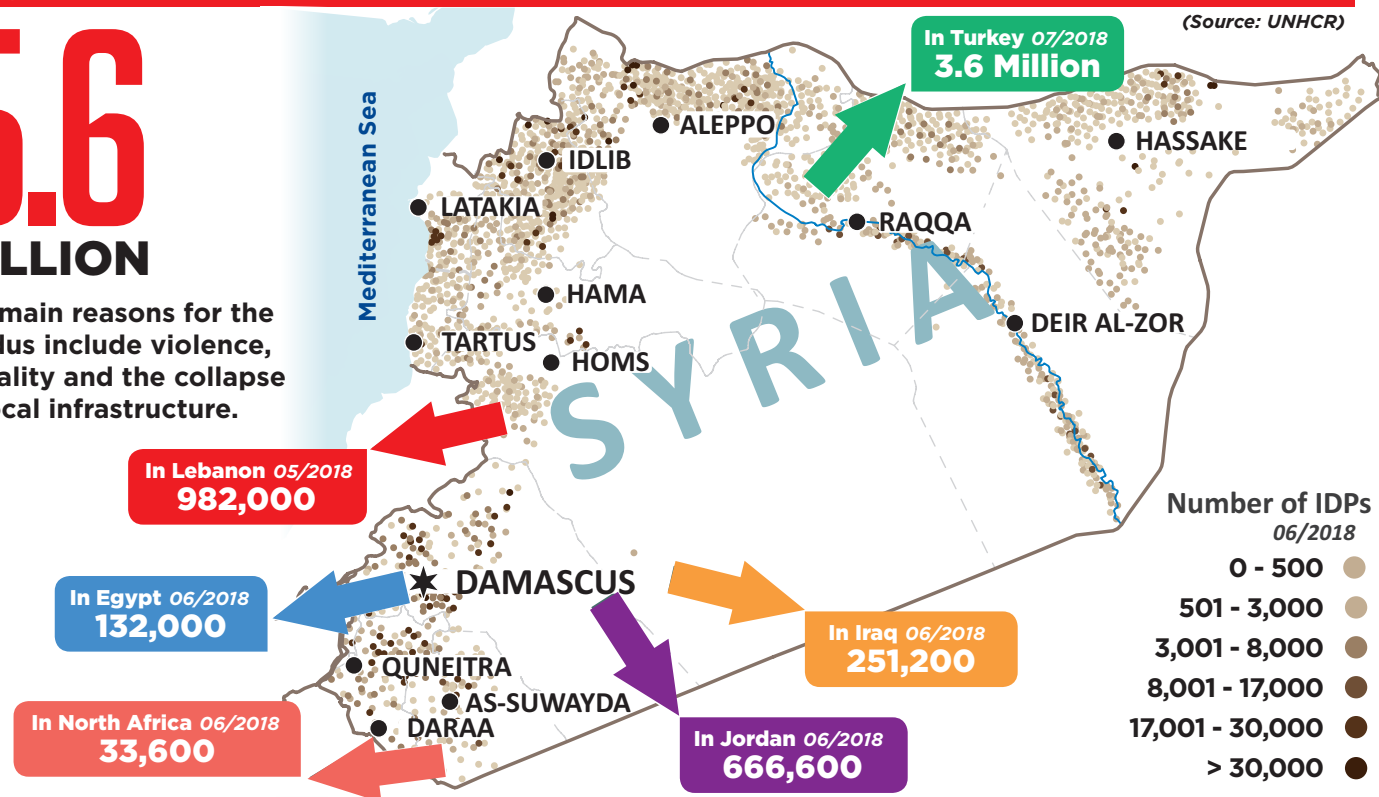


Syrian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

**5.6
MILLION**

The main reasons for the exodus include violence, brutality and the collapse of local infrastructure.



Lebanon

has the highest level of refugees as a percentage of the population anywhere in the world:

53%

live in sub-standard accommodation.

51%

live under the poverty line (of c. £2.25 per day).

42%

are less than 11 years old.



ACN is working with church partners in Lebanon and neighbouring countries to offer essential assistance to all refugees who come to them.

ACN help for refugees in Lebanon

Essential aid in 2018 included:



1,000 refugees receive a hot meal every day at the St John the Merciful Table – men, women, children and the elderly are all welcome at the relief kitchen.



Help for Christian families with rent, food baskets, and other essentials to help them survive.



Education for refugee children at Church schools to give them the chance of a brighter future.

SYRIAN REFUGEES

www.acnuk.org/syrianrefugees

Still showing love to Syrian refugees



This family that fled from Aleppo, northern Syria, has been cared for by the Maronite Church in Tartous. The Church has helped Christian refugees and IDPs with nowhere else to turn.

Archbishop Darwish.

“Either you leave – or you will be killed”

Faced with this threat from Islamist rebel soldiers, Rana, Akram and their three daughters – the youngest of whom is 2 ½ – quickly left their home near Homs, western Syria.

Fleeing to neighbouring Lebanon, the Christian family sought sanctuary in Zahle, in the Beqaa Valley which runs parallel with the Syrian border.

In Zahle, refugees are looked after by the Melkite Church – an Eastern Catholic Church in full communion with Rome – which has been providing aid for their suffering brothers and sisters since shortly after the war began.

Melkite Archbishop John Darwish told us: “We have about 650 Christian families in Zahle – but we receive no help from the UN”.

The Church relies

on support from the benefactors of Aid to the Church in Need. **Without your help, they wouldn't be able to run projects like the St John the Merciful Table – which provides up to 1,000 warm meals every day – nor would they be able to support refugees to keep a roof over their heads.**

Inside you will not only read about those being helped by the Melkite Church, but also the medical help the Comboni Sisters are giving to Syrian refugees who have fled across the Jordanian border.

The fighting in Syria may have abated, but there are still countless refugees needing care. Only through your kindness are we able to show the love of Christ to those who have fled extremism. ✝

Food and fellowship at the Saint John the Merciful Table

Every day 300 refugee families are fed at the St John Merciful Table in Zahle, including Randa and her family.

They were forced to flee from Zabadani – close to the border with Lebanon – after Christian homes were marked out by Islamists among the 5,000-strong rebel army that seized their town. Christians were threatened because of their faith



Randa's husband Sami with their daughter Mona and grandchild Joseph, in their room in Zahle.

and some were even killed in their own homes.

Randa's ten-room house was razed to the ground, and now five adult members of the family live in one room in Zahle.

They come to the St John the Merciful Table every day. Randa tells us that it is not just the hot meal that they appreciate but being able to meet others who have lived through situations similar to their own.

Her daughter, Mona, met her husband at St John the Merciful Table, and was married by Archbishop Darwish.

ACN has been the main funder of the restaurant of love – providing more than £450,000 in 2018.

If ACN did not help, the local Melkite Church would not be able to prepare up to 1,000 meals every day. Please help us to continue to provide food for Syrian refugees. ✝



Providing food for the hungry (above and inset).

“Your wounds I will heal”, says the Lord, “for you have been an outcast” (cf. Jer 30:17)



Little Mirjam is learning to stand and walk again.

During eight years of war, a steady flow of refugees has poured into Jordan – and with most being unable to afford basic medical aid, those seeking treatment have turned to the Comboni Sisters' hospital in Karakon on the other side of the Syrian border.

When the refugees first started turning up, seeking medical assistance, the hospital was helped by various international bodies, but their support has dried up. The X-ray machine has now broken down, and their antiquated air-conditioning system keeps malfunctioning, limiting

work in the operating theatre.

The Sisters and the other staff at the hospital have been coping from day to day, not knowing how long the hospital can operate.

ACN has promised more than £45,000 so they can take care of Syrian refugees, and will not have to turn away expectant mothers or sick children, or emergency admissions.

Sister Adele tells us “We are caring above all for pregnant women and young mothers with small children”.

Please help the Comboni Sisters to provide aid to the refugees who are turning to them in their time of need. ✝



Comboni Sister Bachara comforts a newborn baby.

Denounced by their neighbours

Eight years ago – shortly after the fighting started – the Kassouha family fled to Lebanon from Syria, after the Islamist rebel militia group Al Nusra Front seized their home and shop.

The family told ACN that, although Christians and Muslims had lived together in harmony in their village for decades, after the extremists arrived some of their neighbours turned against them.

Eventually an announcement was made in the mosque saying Christians should be captured or killed. Fortunately, Muslim neighbours hid them and they were able to escape – but 75 Christians were

seized by Al Nusra.

Today Yaser and Hana Kassouha live with their son Majid and ten-month-old granddaughter Tatiana in one small concrete room in Zahle, with a tiny kitchenette and basic bathroom facilities.

It costs them up to £250 per month for rent and utilities before food and other essentials. They are unable to afford it, which is why – like 650 families in Zahle in Lebanon's Beqaa Valley – they are receiving help from the local Melkite Church.

They would like to go back to Syria if possible, but until then they rely on your love to support them in their time of need. ✝

A message of hope, scrawled in English, on the walls of a street where many refugee families are sheltering in Zahle, Lebanon.