



Islamic Relief Jordan

Annual Update 2017



A two month old girl smiles after undergoing a successful inguinal hernia repair operation funded by IRJ.

Introduction

The war in Syria has created more than five million refugees, with over 655,000 living in Jordan. Most of the refugee population have settled in the capital Amman or the northern areas of Al Mafrq, Al Ramtha, Irbid and Zarqa. Around 80 per cent live with host communities, while the rest live in camps.

The influx of refugees in Jordan has put the country's infrastructure and services under great strain. The communities hosting them were already poor, and those in rural Al Mafrq and Al Ramtha in particular are struggling to cope with the disproportionate number who have settled there. Local services, natural resources and the labour market are all under pressure as wages are low in these areas, and working conditions are harsh.

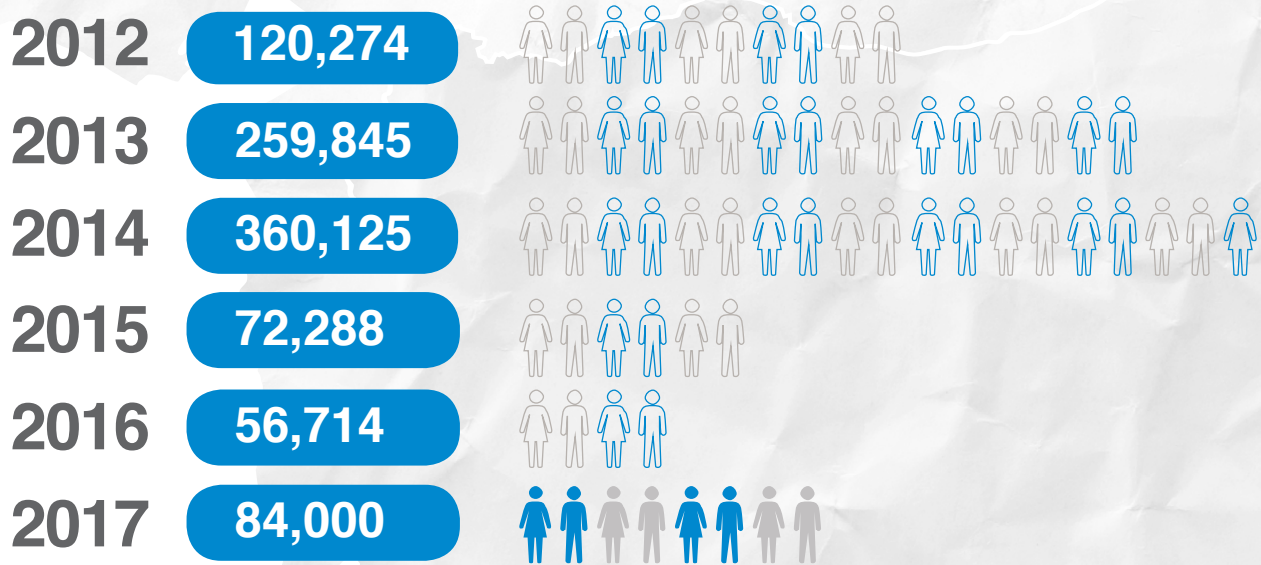
The Syrian refugees living in camps are in need of ongoing humanitarian support including shelter, health, water, education and protection, while those living with host communities are increasingly dependent on government services and international assistance. However, a lack of funding has led to free health services being cut in some areas, and the situation for refugees is worsening. As a result, some are resorting to negative coping strategies such as limiting their food consumption, restricting children's access to education, engaging in illegal activities, child labour and early marriage.

Islamic Relief Jordan

Islamic Relief Jordan (IRJ) has been supporting orphans in Jordan since 1997 but with the outbreak of war in neighbouring Syria, we scaled up our activities to provide emergency assistance in response to the refugee crisis.

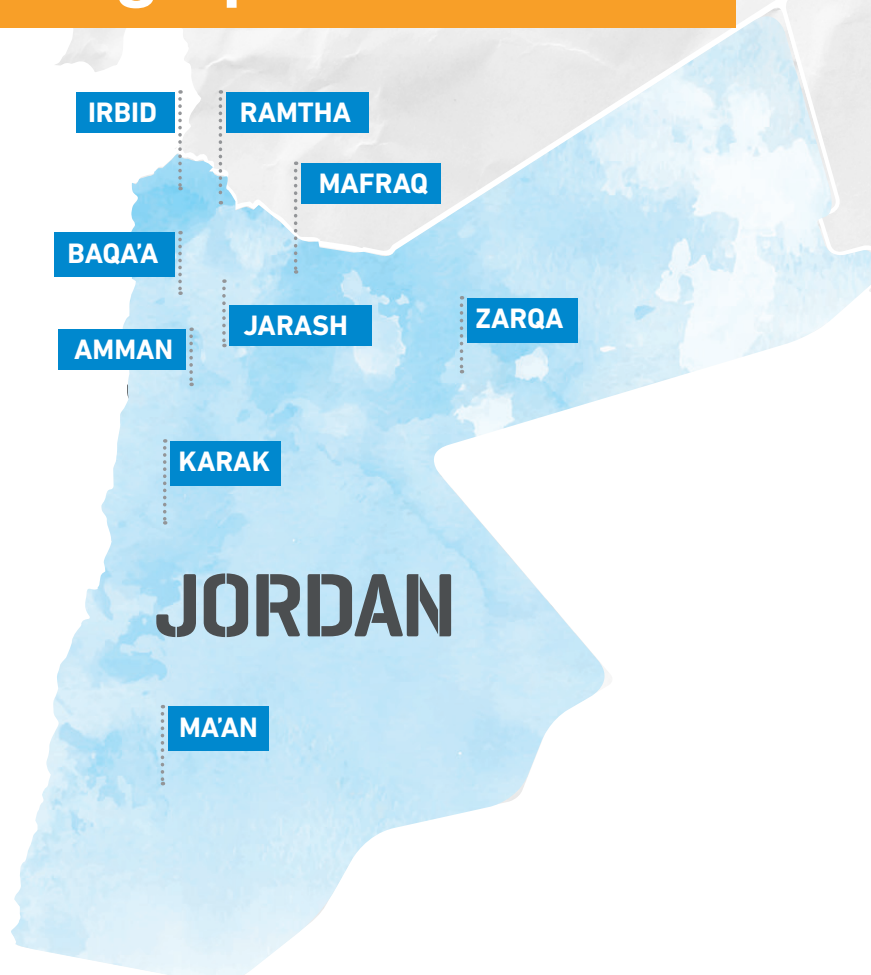
Our country office in Amman coordinates our field offices in Al Mafrq and Al Ramtha, managing a team of over 40 staff who deliver humanitarian aid programmes in Amman, Al Mafrq, Al Ramtha, Jerash, Irbid, Baqa'a, Karak, Zarqa and Ma'an.

People Supported in Jordan



In 2017, we delivered £2.5 million in humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan, bringing the total cost of our programmes over the last six years to over £72 million.

Geographical Focus





Palestinian women from Gaza Camp in Jordan receive Ramadan food parcels from IRJ.

Humanitarian programmes 2017

In 2017, Islamic Relief Jordan provided humanitarian assistance to almost 84,000 Syrians, including food, shelter, livelihood support, access to health and education, and protection for women and children.

Food security and livelihoods

The lack of access to food has left Syrian refugees increasingly dependent on emergency assistance for survival. In 2017, IRJ provided food parcels to over 2,500 refugee families and 2,700 vulnerable Jordanian families. During Eid ul Adha, we also distributed Qurbani meat to almost 4,000 families.

IRJ has also been working to build the resilience of vulnerable families by providing livelihood support through short-term employment opportunities and longer-term income generation projects and training. In 2017, we provided 200 Syrian and Jordanian women with training and helped two vulnerable Syrian families set up income generation activities.

In 2018, some of the ongoing challenges will be providing access to fresh food and raising awareness of good nutritional practices through training and communication.

Shelter

Rental payments are the biggest expense for most refugees in Jordan, and the lack of affordable housing has been one of the main points of tension between Syrians and Jordanians. Syrian refugees are often forced to live in inadequate and overcrowded accommodation, and without access to paid work, many cannot afford to keep up with the cost of living. In the winter months, those without suitable accommodation are left even more vulnerable.

During the 2016/2017 winter season, IRJ helped over 2,000 Syrian families as well as 700 Jordanian families survive the harsh weather through our winterisation assistance programme.



A child smiles as her family receives a new heater and blanket as part of IRJ's winterisation project.

Health

In October 2014, the Ministry of Health announced that Syrian refugees in Jordan would no longer have access to free health care and will have to pay the same amount as non-insured Jordanians. This increased the burden on refugees considerably, as only 40 percent living in urban settings are currently covered by health services. That leaves over 300,000 refugees without affordable access to health care.

In 2017, IRJ provided medical support for almost 12,000 people through haemodialysis services for patients with kidney disease, access to secondary and tertiary health care, operating a mobile clinic, delivering health awareness sessions and providing hygiene kits.

Widad's story

32-year-old Widad was diagnosed with kidney failure after she was mistakenly given chemotherapy during a molar pregnancy. She and her husband had been trying unsuccessfully to have a baby, but when her kidneys failed, he left her. Widad had no choice but to leave Syria and go to live with her sister in Jordan. Together they live in one small room, and Widad has no source of income.

"I used to have dialysis at Dara'a Hospital in Syria, although it was very far and took a long time to get there. Due to the war, sometimes I would get there and be told that there is no medication in the hospital. Then the hospital was bombed, and destroyed completely. I started to go to another hospital for treatment, but it had only two bed for dialysis. Many times I had to go back home without getting treatment. I had no choice but to leave Syria.

"When I came to Jordan, I struggled to find an organisation that could help me. Dialysis is very expensive, and I have no income to cover the cost of the sessions. At first I had treatment at a hospital funded by UNHCR, but after a year they stopped due to a lack of funds. Eventually I found Islamic Relief. They have been covering the cost of my treatment for the past two years. Not only that, but they always ask me how my treatment went, and regularly check up on me.

"I pray that Allah rewards the good work Islamic Relief is doing. Please keep supporting me, because it is a matter of life and death."



Syrian refugee Widad Gawazi receives dialysis funded by IRJ.

Education

After seven years of war, many Syrian children have had long-term disruption to their education. Enrolment rates amongst Syrian children in Jordan is low as many do not have the documentation required for registration. Furthermore, many families cannot cover the cost of education due to their increasingly fragile financial situation, particularly those living in northern and eastern Jordan.

Younger children and girls are among those most likely to miss out on education as travelling to school is a major concern for their parents. Children with disabilities also experience challenges due to physical and cultural barriers, as well as the lack of specialist staff to support their integration.

In 2017, IRJ provided educational activities and psychosocial support for 60 of the most vulnerable children in an effort to enhance inclusive access to education for all.

Protection for women and children

Women and children are among the most vulnerable in conflict situations and refugees can face complex protection issues from psychological trauma, violence including sexual and gender-based violence, registration issues, lack of access to services, and poverty. Around half the Syrian refugees in Jordan are children, and IRJ has been committed to providing them with protection and support.

In 2017, we provided almost 2,000 women and children with protection and psychosocial support. We distributed clothes and vouchers during Eid for almost 650 children, and clothing for over 40 families in coordination with Clothes Bank. In Ramadan, we gave over 100 orphaned children food for Iftar, clothes for Eid and psychosocial support. IRJ also supports almost 2,000 sponsored orphans, including Jordanian and Palestinian children, ensuring all their basic needs are met on an ongoing basis.



Sabha, a widow and mother of nine, is able to buy new clothes for her children thanks to IRJ's Eid clothes project,

Sabha's story

Sabha is a mother of nine children who lives in a two-bedroom home in Al-Jwaideh, an impoverished area in Amman. She has been struggling to survive since her husband died six years ago. Sabha was pregnant at the time, and was left with no support. "My life was a mess," she told Islamic Relief. "I had no fixed income at the time. I couldn't buy my children what they needed for school, or anything for Eid. I could barely buy them food to eat. We had no-one at that time. We only had God."

Now, three of Sabha's children are sponsored by Islamic Relief. Ahmad is 12 years old, Hind is 11 and Nisreen is six – and thanks to the sponsorship, they are all healthy and able to go to school.

"The cost of education is so high I wouldn't have been able to send my children to school without this support. I am so grateful to Islamic Relief. They saved my family in so many ways. I have a fridge and a washing machine now. I also have furniture and mattresses for all my children. Nisreen has just started school, and I pray that Islamic Relief will continue to support her until she completes high school."

Sabha's children also benefited from the Eid clothes project run by Islamic Relief in 2017. "This will be a big surprise for them!" she told us. "My children never dream of having new clothes. I can't tell you how it feels buying these clothes for them. May Allah rewards you with paradise for helping us."



A child receives a book from IRJ as part of a project to improve access to education for refugee and vulnerable children.



Ahmed and his four children are happier after receiving support from IRJ.

Ahmed's story

Ahmed and his family left Syria when the conflict intensified in Dara'a. They arrived in Jordan's Al Zaatari camp and lived there for three weeks, before moving to Al Ramtha because the conditions in the camp were so miserable.

Ahmed's wife was suffering from a blood clot and needed urgent treatment, while Ahmed needed surgery for his failing kidneys. Their four children were terrified having witnessed their house being attacked and destroyed. They had to leave everything behind in Syria, when they fled for their lives.

In Jordan, Ahmed's eldest daughter has been struggling to adjust to her new life and settle in school. Fortunately, she was able to join IRJ's Safe Spaces for Women and Children programme, which provides specialist care for traumatised children.

IRJ is also arranged for Ahmed to have surgery at the Irbid Specialist Hospital, covering all the costs of his operation and medications.

Ahmed's family is just one many who remain in need of ongoing support in Jordan. The work of charitable organisations like Islamic Relief is saving and improving lives on a daily basis. Please continue to support us so we can provide hope for these families.

Future programmes

In 2018, Islamic Relief Jordan will continue supporting refugees and host communities in Jordan through shelter, livelihoods, education, health and protection programmes. This will include:

- Establishing safe spaces for over 1,700 vulnerable women and children in Mafraq and Al Ramtha.
- Providing a mobile primary healthcare clinic for 30,000 Syrian refugees as well as additional health care services to 600 people including haemodialysis facilities.
- Providing healthcare for 300 Syrian children through surgeries.
- Raising awareness of disease prevention and good health practices for 1,000 people and providing them with hygiene kits.
- Funding an educational tour bus that offers educational and life skills workshops to 500 children as well as support for their parents and teachers on child protection issues, including the needs of children with disabilities.

- Distributing seasonal survival items to 1,400 vulnerable refugee families during the winter period.

After seven years of war, the needs of refugees are increasing and with limited funding, all those working to support vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian communities are facing difficult challenges.

Islamic Relief remains committed to serving those in need in Jordan, providing emergency aid and helping them to establish livelihoods so that they can increase their food security and reduce their dependence on aid.

Thank you to all our donors and partners who have made our humanitarian interventions possible in 2017, and please continue to support us in the years to come.



IRJ's mobile health clinic reaches families in rural areas who would otherwise struggle to access medical care.



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