



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**

MORE THAN A REFUGEE



**THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE STATISTICS
AND HOW YOU CAN HELP IN THIS GLOBAL CRISIS**

An unprecedented 59.5 million people around the world have been forced from their homes. Among them are nearly 20 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.

“The Syria crisis is now the worst humanitarian crisis since the Rwandan genocide.”

– UN OFFICIAL



13.5 Million

PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE,
INCLUDING FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER



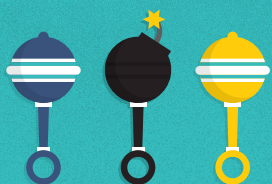
6.6 Million

IDPS –THE LARGEST DISPLACEMENT
CRISIS IN THE WORLD



1 out of 3

CHILDREN BORN INTO THE CONFLICT



80%

OF SYRIANS LIVING
BELOW THE POVERTY LINE,
STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE



47,000+

SYRIANS HAVE DIED IN THE CIVIL WAR



1.1 Million

REGISTERED REFUGEES,
WITH THE ACTUAL NUMBER
CLOSER TO 1.5 –2 MILLION



25%

OF THE TOTAL POPULATION—
THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA RATIO
OF REFUGEES GLOBALLY



89%

OF REFUGEES IN DEBT DUE TO
HIGH RENT PRICES, LOW WAGES
AND LACK OF FOOD AID.



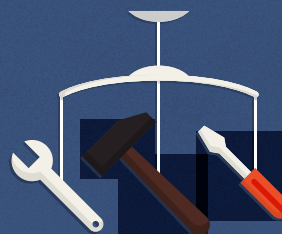
400,000

SYRIAN CHILDREN LIVING IN
LEBANON ARE NOT IN SCHOOL.



180,000+

SYRIAN CHILDREN IN THE
CHILD LABOR FORCE



It's not OK that this many people have been forced from their homes due to wars, conflict or natural disasters.

But, hope remains.

Can we really make a difference in such a sweeping global crisis?

History will either bless or curse our generation for how we respond to the current crisis. Are we turning a blind eye or weeping with and supporting our brothers and sisters?

Food for the Hungry (FH) has been responding to international crises for over four decades and we've found that when people collectively stand up to say it's not OK and care for the vulnerable, change is possible and extreme poverty is eliminated.

Not all refugees are really refugees. Wait... what?

HERE ARE SOME DEFINITIONS FOR YOU:

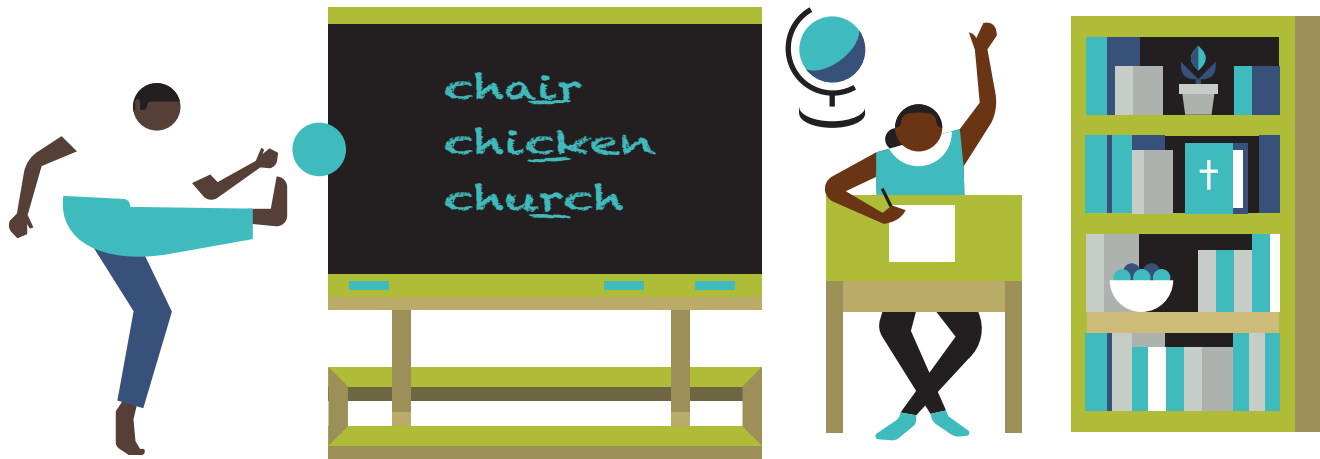
IDP (Internally Displaced Person): a person who is forced to flee their home but remains within their country's borders. They are often referred to as a refugee, although they're technically not.

Refugee: a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution or natural disaster.

Returnee: a person who returns to their home country, especially after a prolonged absence.

Each refugee, IDP and returnee has a unique situation. Each has a family and a home. Each has a history and each has value. Many will cycle from IDP, to refugee and on to become a returnee once the conflict has been resolved. Some never move to the next phase, and some never get to return home. This life is more of a web than a cycle.

Effects on Education



Lack of quality and consistent education has become a glaring problem that families face once they cross over country borders and become refugees.

Many schools are taught in languages that refugee children don't speak, and a bilingual education is highly uncommon. For example, Syrian schools are taught in Arabic, but lessons in Lebanon schools are in English and French.

Aside from language barriers, children often are not welcome in the classrooms, and many times they're met with violence and hostility in their new homes.

When children are not in school, they're left even more vulnerable. They're often forced to assist their families by working instead of playing or learning, leading to increased hostility in their own neighborhoods. They're also left with developmental delays mentally, socially and emotionally.

IDPs face many of the same issues, and returnees often find that the educational systems, facilities and teachers have disassembled upon their return to their homeland.

Emotional, Mental and Spiritual Effects



The lack of stability, dealing with perpetual conflict, and adapting to changing surroundings leads to the increased need for mental resources for refugees, IDPs and returnees.

These vital services are rarely available, opening up displaced families to greater vulnerability. Their hopelessness, anger and desperation can lead to terrorism recruitments and other avenues of violence.

Many are being forced into contracts to work on farms in exchange for living on a farmer's land, making them indentured servants with no avenue out.

Many returnees suffer from a lack of social services, jobs and other economic opportunities. Returnees also experience problems with the repossession of their property upon their return.

A New Community



Refugees, IDPs and returnees are all forced into a new community of people, a new family.

They're surrounded by people in equally desperate situations. They're now forced to rely on people whom they don't know and don't yet trust. They're being categorized by their ethnic background and grouped with others who may or may not share similar values. It becomes difficult to commit to their new life both emotionally and physically due to a lack of stability. They're uncertain if they should contribute to the peace and wellbeing of their new community or if they should just continue to live as if they're going to move again tomorrow.

Despite all the challenges they've faced, many are thankful to be alive and safe. Their situations aren't ideal, but they're happy to be away from the conflict they've escaped.

**Here are common profiles of the
displaced people we meet...**

Internally Displaced Person (IDP): A Common Experience Profiled

When Elizabeth's husband and two of her children left for a routine outing in a nearby South Sudan town one morning, she didn't know she wouldn't see them again. Fighting broke out, and she waited as long as she could. The blasts got closer and louder, and Elizabeth had to leave without her husband and two children. She and her extended family fled to a UN compound a few miles away.

With no hope of returning home, and violence again approaching, the family trekked five days deeper into South Sudan. Soon, the fighting forced them to walk two more days and to cross a large, swift river.

A South Sudanese community warmly welcomed Elizabeth and 30 members of her extended family. Their new neighbors gave them food, clothing, utensils and other necessities. They offered an abandoned brick building and helped to cover it with a thatch roof.

Elizabeth and her family received seeds for planting, which they sowed together with their neighbors. The community also helped them build a latrine.

Elizabeth embraces her new life, but she deeply misses her husband and children. She has only spoken to them once since war separated them.

Refugee: A Common Experience Profiled

Mohammed fled Syria four years ago with his wife and children – escaping a brutal war that killed 11 million Syrians and displaced another 6 million. The journey was dangerous, and a confusing legal process met them when they arrived in Lebanon.

Mohammed recalls the horror as he fled along with his extended family. Now they're separated in different settlements. Mohammed and his family live 20 miles from the Syrian border in hopes of returning home when the war is over.

His family doesn't pay rent, but Mohammed must work for the landowner in exchange for the right to settle. This keeps him from working for additional income or finding a better job.

Two of their six children were born in Lebanon. Another is on the way. Mohammed doesn't make enough to send the children to school, a source of anguish for him and his wife. The oldest children dream of returning to school in Syria, but for now sell tissues and gum in the city center to earn money to help the family survive.

Once a middle class family in Syria, they now live in a home made of plywood and tarps. It has no front door. They wash clothes in buckets on the concrete floor that also serves as the kitchen. To supplement their meals, they receive a monthly package of oils, crushed wheat, rice and lentils.



Returnee: A Common Experience Profiled

Laurent returned to his home in Burundi after war and conflict among ethnic groups ravaged his village. He was recruited into the government combat forces shortly after the war began. Once the guns fell silent, he rejoined civilians and the communities that he once was forced to terrorize at the hands of the government.

His home and community are still in the process of rebuilding. Returnees poured into villages but had no land, houses or health clinics. What schools had survived the war were bursting at the seams with the sudden influx of children. In an area where farming was the primary way to make money, families were crammed onto plots of land that weren't producing enough to feed them.

After receiving some training in improved farming practices, specially adapted to their small plots and soil, Laurent was able to reestablish a livelihood and has encouraged others to do the same. The training – along with the provision of cassava cuttings, sweet potato seedlings and pineapple crowns – has given him great results. He works with others in his community to not only sell the pineapples, but also process them into juice.

Now, Laurent and his community have a vision for restoration and the reintegration of ex-combatants, which he is working toward daily.

So... What Can We Do?

➤ **PRAY.**

Continue to offer your petitions to God in prayers for resources for the suffering and ultimate reconciliation of the conflicts.

➤ **OFFER FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

Partner with FH so that we might be able to further mobilize our partners. Resources are scarce, and refugees, IDPs and returnees are all struggling to meet their basic needs. You can help them to thrive amidst unimaginable hardships through your generous gifts.

➤ **SPREAD AWARENESS.**

Mobilize your own networks of friends, family, coworkers and neighbors to become involved. There is power in numbers, and you can make a difference by sharing a message of compassion and motivating others to support our efforts to help refugees, IDPs and returnees.

It is our desire and calling at FH to be a prophetic voice of compassion and care for the IDP, the refugee and the returnee.

FH HAS A THREE-PRONGED RESPONSE:

1. FH will continue responding in countries around the world where there are refugees and internally displaced people, with a focus to increase support and help more people.
2. A call to our donor base and all Christians to care for the refugee, IDP and returnee.
3. FH has Integral partners engaging in the U.S. and Europe on refugee resettlement and care. We will continue to advocate and partner with them as a means to be truly impactful. We continue to advocate political, church, and corporate leaders to help this global crisis

“He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners...”

– **DEUTERONOMY 10:18-19** NIV

It only takes a simple step.

You can make a big difference in the lives of families like Elizabeth, Mohammed and Laurent with even a small donation to Food for the Hungry.

Your gift today of \$10... \$25... or \$50 will make a tremendous difference to feed, clothe, shelter and educate desperate families.

GIVE SECURELY ONLINE AT [FH.ORG/GIVE](https://fh.org/give)

OR

SEND YOUR GIFT PAYABLE TO FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY TO OUR OFFICE AT:

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

1224 E. WASHINGTON STREET

PHOENIX, AZ 85034-1102

Join us today in meeting the basic needs of refugees, IDPs and returnees who are facing unimaginable hardships.

FH.ORG



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THE HUNGRY**

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