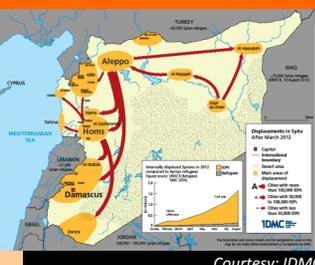




Syria



Courtesy: IDMC

Reasons for Displacement:

The ongoing civil war in Syria is the major reason for the

exodus of refugees and the increasing number of internally displaced persons. The current conflict stems from protests by demonstrators against the Syrian government in March of 2011. Peaceful demonstrations were met with violent government action resulting in the death of civilians and progressing protests turned into a civil war.

Military conflicts between the rebel Free Syrian Army and the Syrian Armed Forces have taken place in populated areas such as Damascus, Aleppo and Hama and have steadily expanded to areas throughout the entire country.

Refugees, IDPs, and Defectors:

Safe havens for Syrian refugees are located in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt and North Africa. The crossing into Turkey and Lebanon is littered with mines which can prohibit safe travel. This is also a problem in Iraq where the refugee camps rest on former mine fields. As the crisis continues, food insecurity threatens communities affected.

Turkey currently has around 17 camps with the number of camps continuing to grow. Problems in the Turkish camps range from water shortages to poor sanitation which causes health problems among the refugees.

A majority of the refugees in Jordan's camps are women and children. Jordan's Za'atari camp is located in a desert where water shortages are the main concern.

In Iraq the refugees face problems such as lack of medical care, adequate food, warmth and clean water.

Number of refugees:
149,140 residing in Syria;
3,883,585 originating from Syria
[source: UNHCR]

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):
7,600,000
[source: IDMC]

History:

2000—Bashar Al'Assad succeeds his father as the Syrian president

2002—U.S. officially labels Syria as part of an "axis of evil."

2004—Riots break out. The government responds with force killing at least 7 people and injuring over than 160

2008—Syrian officials blame explosion killing 17 people on Islamist militants

2011—Security forces shoot at protesters, sparking the current conflict. The protestors main demands are greater democracy, freedom and the resignation of President Assad

2012—Three security officials are killed in explosion caused by the Free Syrian Army. One of them was President Assad's brother-in-law

2013—Over 400,000 people have become refugees, half of them are children

2014—ISIS becomes active in Syria, conquering the Tabqa airbase; they become a global threat

Assistance:

- RIJ funded a project that enabled 240 Syrian refugee children to attend school in Jordan through the provision of uniforms and books. Another project assisted Syrian refugees in Lebanon with hygiene kits and health education
- The Syria Regional Response Plan includes over 50 agencies and NGOs working in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, and Iraq. Notable agencies include UNHCR, MercyCorps, WHO, and Caritas
- UNIQLO donated 1 million dollars to UNHCR

