Millions of people in Syria have fled their homes to escape the fighting. Now many face privation and a future filled with uncertainty.

HISTORY OF A CONFLICT
The Syrian Arab Republic is located on the Mediterranean Sea and bounded by Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon. For 400 years, this region formed part of the Ottoman Empire. Soon after the dissolution of the empire at the end of World War I, France took control of what is now Syria under a mandate from the League of Nations; in 1946, Syria achieved independence.

The decades that followed were marked by military coups, and armed conflict with neighboring Israel and Lebanon. When the Arab Spring swept through the region in 2011, the government of President Bashar al-Assad, whose Baath Party has been in power since 1963, was targeted by citizens for reform. But when demonstrators were met with force, the movement for reform quickly evolved into a full-scale uprising. Two years later, the country has been ravaged by armed conflict between the Syrian army and pro-government paramilitary forces and an array of rebel groups. More than 70,000 people have died in the violence.

CRISIS WITHIN A CRISIS
But the stories of war in Syria are overlooking a fast-growing emergency: millions of Syrians have had to leave their homes to escape the fighting.

BY THE NUMBERS
50+: The percentage of refugees from Syria who are children
7,000: The average number of new refugees that the UN is registering each day in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt
70,000+: The number of people killed in the Syria conflict since March 2011
100,000: The number of refugees from Syria who now live in the Zaatari camp in Jordan—making it one of the largest population centers in the country
1.5 million: The estimated number of people who have fled Syria to escape violence (the UN predicts that number could rise to three million by the end of 2013)
4.25 million: The number of people within Syria who have been displaced from their homes
8.3 million: The number of people within Syria who are in urgent need of assistance

Oxfam America is a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. As one of the 17 members of the international Oxfam confederation, we work with people in more than 90 countries to create lasting solutions. Oxfam saves lives, develops long-term solutions to poverty, and campaigns for social change. To join our efforts or learn more, go to oxfamamerica.org.
REACHING PEOPLE

Reaching those in greatest need in this crisis presents serious difficulties for aid providers.

In Lebanon, refugee families are scattered across 1,200 locations, so it is a challenge to identify and assist those who most need a hand. The situation is similar in Jordan, where, although many of the refugees have gathered in the huge Zaatari camp, 70 percent are living in urban neighborhoods. And in Syria itself, the difficulty of aiding a dispersed population is compounded by severe security risks.

THE OXFAM RESPONSE

Oxfam and our partners are currently providing aid to more than 55,000 refugees; over the course of the next year, we aim to reach 650,000 people affected by the conflict. Our programs include the following:

IN LEBANON
• providing cash assistance with rent;
• planning distribution of vouchers for hygiene materials and food;
• planning a program to improve access to safe water and sanitation;
• distribution of heaters, blankets, mattresses, and warm clothes (in winter);

IN JORDAN
• installing water tanks and taps;
• constructing latrines and showers, including wheelchair-accessible facilities;
• coordinating hygiene training;
• funding citizen-journalists to interview refugees about their concerns;
• planning to distribute cash for basic needs and improve access to safe water for people living in host communities;

IN SYRIA
• working through several organizations that are delivering food, hygiene kits, and other household essentials to civilians.

Oxfam has also applied for approval to work with Syria’s Ministry of Water Resources in supporting emergency water and sanitation activities throughout the country.

CALL TO ACTION

Beyond our work on the ground with civilians in need, Oxfam is calling on the international community to commit to an embargo on arms transfers to all sides of this conflict, to ensure that the people affected by the crisis have access to the humanitarian assistance they need, and to step up efforts to find a political solution to the crisis.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Despite the urgency of the refugee crisis, Oxfam has raised less than 25 percent of the funds we need for our response.

Donate now. oxfamamerica.org/syria

The Syria crisis is deepening week by week, and it requires a massive and immediate response. But to resolve this emergency once and for all, we need an end to the bloodshed.

—Michael Delaney, director of humanitarian response, Oxfam America