SEVEN YEARS OF CRISIS

ISLAMIC RELIEF'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN SYRIA 2012-2017

A child living in a camp in Idlib receives a WFP food parcel for him and his family.

Cover page: Mahmoud smiles as Islamic Relief provides tents and winter survival items to his family after they were displaced from Idlib.

Islamic Relief Worldwide

As an independent humanitarian and development organisation, Islamic Relief has been serving humanity for 34 years. With an active presence in over 40 countries across the globe, we strive to make the world a better and fairer place for the three billion people still living in poverty.

Since we received our first donation in 1984, we have helped millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Inspired by the Islamic faith and guided by our values, we believe that people with wealth have a duty to those less fortunate – regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief.

Our projects provide vulnerable people with access to vital services. We protect communities from disasters and deliver life-saving emergency aid. We provide lasting routes out of poverty, and empower vulnerable people to transform their lives and their communities.

Our global family includes national offices, affiliated partners and field offices. We also own a subsidiary company based in Birmingham, UK, which raises funds for our work by collecting and recycling clothing. TIC International also conducts food activities, largely related to canned meat for aid distribution purposes.

Our Mission

Inspired by our Islamic faith and guided by our values we envisage a caring world where communities are empowered, social obligations are fulfilled and people respond as one to the suffering of others.

Our vision

Exemplifying our Islamic values, we will mobilise resources, build partnerships and develop local capacity as we work to:

- Enable communities to mitigate the effect of disasters, prepare for their occurrence and respond by providing relief, protection and recovery.
- Promote integrated development and environmental custodianship with a focus on sustainable livelihoods.
- Support the marginalised and vulnerable to voice their needs and address root causes of poverty.

Our values

We remain guided by the timeless values and teachings of the Qur'an and the prophetic example (Sunnah), most specifically:

Sincerity (Ikhlas)

In responding to poverty and suffering, our efforts are driven by sincerity to God and the need to fulfil our obligations to humanity.

Excellence (Ihsan)

Our actions in tackling poverty are marked by excellence in our operations and the conduct through which we help the people we serve.

Compassion (Rahma)

We believe the protection and well-being of every life is of paramount importance and we shall join with other humanitarian actors to act as one in responding to suffering brought on by disasters, poverty and injustice.

Social Justice (Adl)

Our work is founded on enabling people and institutions to fulfil the rights of the poor and vulnerable. We work to empower the dispossessed towards realising their God-given human potential and develop their capabilities and resources.

Custodianship (Amana)

We uphold our duty of custodianship over Earth and its resources, and the trust people place in us as a humanitarian and development practitioner to be transparent and accountable.

Um Khaled arrives to relative safety having escaped heavy bombing in Idlib.

Islamic Relief Syria would like to thank all its donors, supporters, partners, staff and volunteers who have helped us improve the lives of more than 3.3 million people in 2017. We pray your support continues in 2018 and beyond, as we pray for peace and an end to suffering in Syria.

HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

For the past seven years, the people of Syria have been suffering the devastating consequences of war with no end in sight. Over 13 million people are in need of humanitarian aid in the country, including more than five million children. Three million people are living in besieged areas without access to humanitarian aid, and the total number of displaced Syrians has risen to 11.5 million.

The scale, severity, and complexity of needs across Syria remains overwhelming. 5.6 million people are in acute need due to a convergence of vulnerabilities resulting from displacement, exposure to hostilities, and limited access to basic goods and services. Conflict continues to be the principal driver of humanitarian needs, with the civilian population in many parts of the country exposed to significant protection risks which threaten life, dignity and wellbeing on a daily basis.

KEY FIGURES

13.1 MILLION
NEED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

5.5 MILLION
REGISTERED SYRIAN REFUGEES WORLDWIDE

970,000 SYRIANS HAVE APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN EUROPE

6.1 MILLION
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS INSIDE SYRIA

1 IN 3
SCHOOLS ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE EDUCATION

6.5 MILLION
FACE FOOD INSECURITY

5.3 MILLION
LIVE IN SHELTERS WITHOUT PROPER COOKING, HEATING OR WASHING FACILITIES

The Current Situation

The humanitarian situation in Syria remained critical in 2017 as the war continued to impact every aspect of life.

Um Ahmad was displaced from Homs as she fled amid heavy bombardment.

Food security and livelihoods

In 2017, 6.5 million people in Syria were food insecure, with a further four million at risk of becoming acutely food insecure. This meant that over half of those in need in the country required urgent live-saving and life-sustaining food, as well as assistance with agriculture and livelihoods.

Across Syria, the main causes of household food insecurity were ongoing security issues, lack of financial and physical access to food, and the depletion of livelihood assets. The number of Syrians facing acute food insecurity decreased from 37 percent in 2016 to 33 percent in 2017, while those at risk of food insecurity doubled. The country's total wheat production increased by 12 percent in 2017, but was still less than half of the pre-crisis average. Similarly, the average cost of a standard food basket decreased by 0.3 percent compared to the previous year, but was still 90 percent above 2015 prices, and a staggering 800 percent higher than pre-crisis levels.

In 2018, the Syrian population's dependence on food assistance is expected to continue and access to a diverse diet will remain a widespread need to improve the nutritional status of those acutely food insecure. Furthermore, agriculture and livelihood interventions are critical to increase self-reliance, strengthen resilience and early recovery, especially in increasingly stable areas. Wherever possible, concerted efforts should be made to support agriculture and livelihood recovery among populations receiving emergency food distributions.

Healthcare

In 2017, 11.3 million people in Syria were in need of health assistance[1], and yet Syria remains the most dangerous country in the world to be a health worker. In the first half of the year, the health sector reported a 25 percent increase in attacks on health facilities compared to the previous year, with an average of one attack every 36 hours.

1- UNOCHA 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overseas

The continued destruction of the public health infrastructure in 2017 put existing health facilities under additional strain, limiting the ability of vulnerable people to access sufficient medical assistance. In September 2017, four healthcare facilities were put out of service in one week, leaving thousands of patients without healthcare in Has Hospital, Khan Sheikhoun's Surgical Hospital, Al Teh's Women & Children's Hospital and Kafr Nabl's Surgical Hospital.

Currently, less than half of Syria's health facilities remain fully operational. The priorities for Syria's health sector in 2018 are access to primary healthcare, maintaining medicine and medical supplies for the treatment of trauma, obstetric care, infectious diseases and chronic conditions.

Education and child welfare

2017 saw 5.8 million children and young people in need of educational assistance, as well as over 300,000 teachers and staff. Almost a third of school-age children without access to education, and a further 1.35 million children are at risk of dropping out. Around 180,000 school staff have already left the education system, affecting the quality of education in schools that are still running.

More than one in three schools are unable to operate because they have been damaged, destroyed or are being used for other purposes. Schools account for a third of collective centres and are the most common type of building used to shelter displaced people. As the scale of internal displacement increases, it continues to put enormous pressure on the education infrastructure, highlighting the need for school rehabilitation.

Shelter and survival

In 2017, 1.8 million Syrians were newly displaced. In the northwest of the country, internally displaced people now make up a significant proportion of the total population, with around one million displaced in the region.

In the first half of 2017, 200,000 people were newly displaced in Idlib Governorate. Conflict in the area and further afield in Ar-Raqqa, as well as other locations, caused an increase in displacements in and across northwest Syria, with agreements between the government and opposition groups involving the relocation of populations.

One of the most critical issues affecting displaced people in 2017, as in previous years, was the onset of winter. From September onwards, delivering winterisation assistance to people unable to access heating, clothing and adequate shelter support has been a life-saving priority. In 2018, an integrated programme approach will be needed to support displaced communities, with a focus on urgent humanitarian assistance before winter begins.

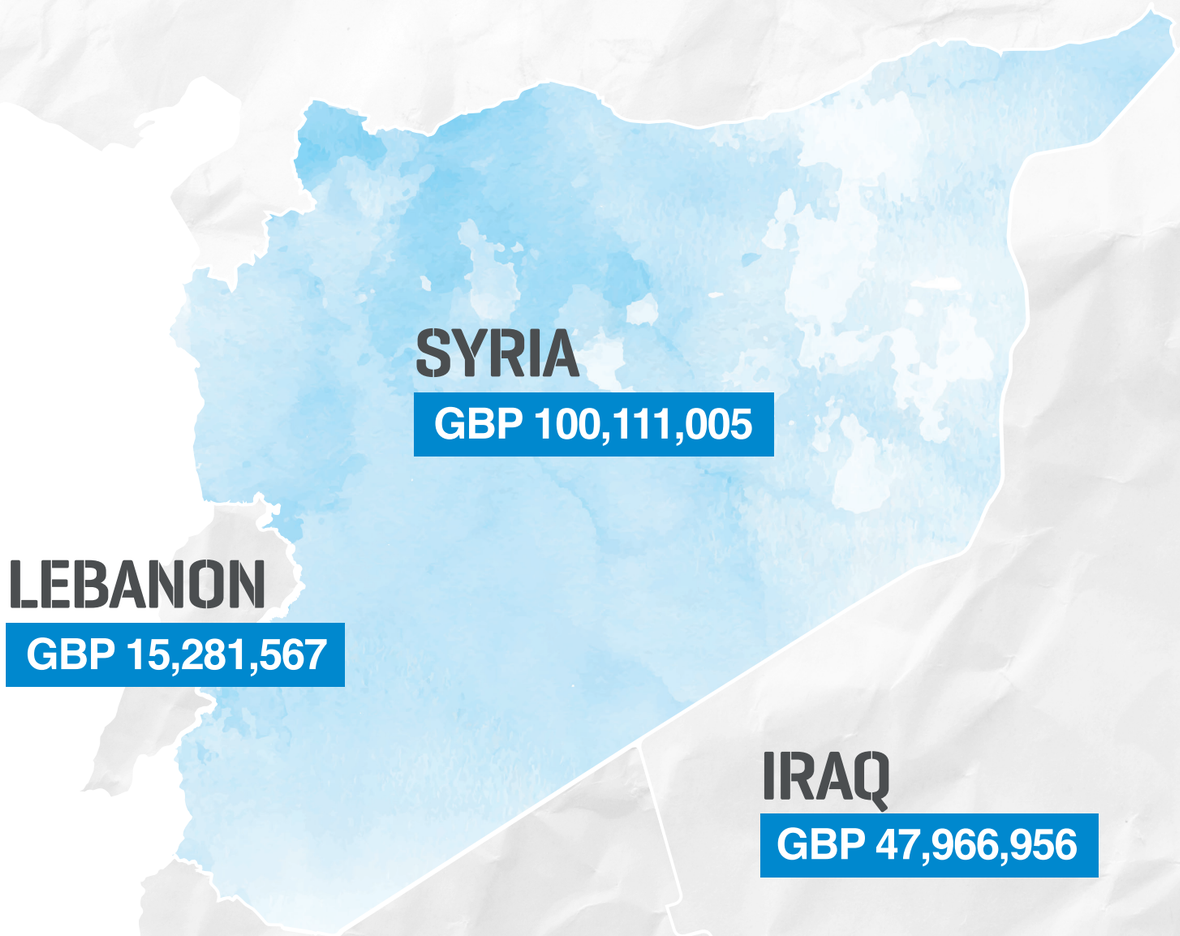
Water, sanitation and hygiene

According to UNOCHA[2], 14.6 million people are in need of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Syria, with 7.6 million people in acute need. Access to safe water is limited for much of the population, and increased water quality assurances are desperately needed. Alternative water supply services and WASH supplies are available but remain unaffordable for many, forcing vulnerable families to adopt unsafe coping strategies. In 2018, Syria's water and sewage networks will require increased support, including power supplies if they are to continue to provide a minimum level of services.

2- UNOCHA 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overseas

2012-2017 FUNDING BREAKDOWN

GBP 239+ MILLION



ACTUAL BENEFICIARIES

2012	1,087,523
2013	2,017,461
2014	4,021,811
2015	4,064,444
2016	3,378,355
2017	4,559,403

BENEFICIARIES PER SECTOR IN 2017

FOOD
1,949,541

HEALTH & NUTRITION
1,688,290

WASH
250,575

EDUCATION
25,434

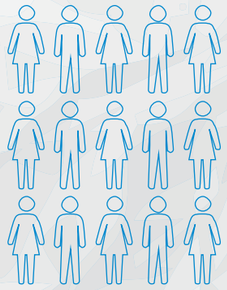
SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS
645,563

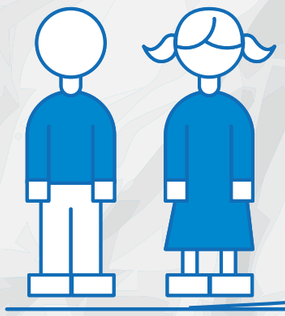
SYRIA: SEVEN YEARS OF CRISIS

ISLAMIC RELIEF'S RESPONSE 2012-2017

OVER £239 MILLION OF RELIEF THAT WE HAVE DELIVERED TO THE MOST VULNERABLE SYRIANS

WE'VE HELPED OVER 4 MILLION PEOPLE IN SYRIA





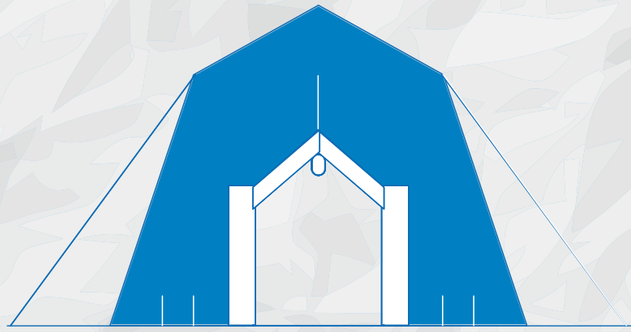
WE'VE EDUCATED OVER 17,585 CHILDREN

WE'VE REACHED OVER

522,500 DISPLACED PEOPLE AND PROVIDED THEM WITH WINTER KITS

WE'VE DISTRIBUTED OVER

2,300,000 FOOD PARCELS TO THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE



WE'VE HELPED OVER 1,218,169 SYRIAN PATIENTS ACCESS HEALTH SERVICES

DURING THE SYRIA CRISIS
WE'VE DISTRIBUTED OVER

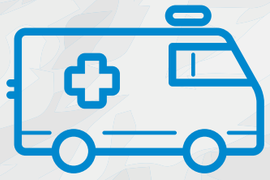
40,300,000 MEDICAL PIECES & OVER 45,000

PIECES OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO MORE THAN

230 MEDICAL POINTS AND HOSPITALS

54 AMBULANCES

WE'VE ASSISTED OVER 43 HOSPITAL WITH 54 AMBULANCES



Islamic Relief's Humanitarian Programmes Inside Syria in 2017

Islamic Relief's Syria operation is aligned to the organisation's strategic objective of "reducing the humanitarian impact of conflicts and natural disasters." Most of our work in 2017 was designed to respond to the humanitarian needs within Syria through a multi-sector response. Our programmes covered healthcare, food security, WASH, education, shelter and survival items to support vulnerable displaced and host communities. Some of our work was also aligned to the organisation's strategic objective of "empowering local communities to emerge from poverty and vulnerability." The focus of these programmes was to build the capacity of local communities to cope with the situation in future, providing better livelihood opportunities through agriculture support and livestock related activities. We also enhanced the capacity of health facilities to provide better services to local communities.

Food Security and Livelihoods

In 2017, Islamic Relief Syria's food security programmes reached over 1.4 million people. Highlights of our food security work include:

- In Azaz and Jarablus, we delivered IKD canned meat to 8,000 displaced people.
- As Aleppo came under siege, we provided emergency food rations for over 1,200 families within the city and almost 15,000 newly displaced families in Idlib and rural Aleppo. We also delivered bread to over 8,200 food insecure families every day for 23 days.
- Our emergency response programme in Aleppo City ensured almost 19,000 households received bread for 30 days and almost 3,000 babies received baby milk through our health centres. Further food assistance was provided to over 139,000 vulnerable people in Aleppo Governorate, including displaced and host communities.
- As people were newly displaced from eastern Aleppo City, Islamic Relief Syria's integrated emergency project supported over 24,000 people by providing them with food parcels, as well as kitchen sets and hygiene kits for 200 of the most vulnerable households. Over 2,000 babies were provided with milk under the care of health professionals.
- Displaced and host communities were also able to access food rations for 12 months through a project that supported over 140,000 families for a year and provided 7,000 children with supplementary feeding for two months to improve their nutrition levels.
- We also addressed the urgent food needs of newly displaced families from eastern Aleppo City, providing over 5,000 households with 25kg of wheat flour. Over 200 of the most vulnerable families were also provided with food parcels that covered their basic food needs for a month.
- In Ramadan, we distributed 31,000 food parcels to accessible areas in Idlib, Aleppo and Hama, reaching over 165,000 people.
- On Eid El Adha, we provided Qurbani meat to over 400,000 people in northern Syria, those living in besieged areas and Syrian refugees in Turkey.
- To support agriculture based livelihoods, Islamic Relief Syria ensured 500 families received seeds, farming kits and fertiliser in time for the winter planting season. In addition, 350 families were provided with sheep, livestock kits and feed to help restore their productive assets. These two programmes benefitted 2,500 people in Syria.
- As part of our food security programmes we provided over 15,000 children under the age of five with supplementary nutrition to help prevent health complications as a result of malnutrition.

A family from one of the camps in rural Idlib is pleased to receive a Ramadan food package from Islamic Relief.

Healthcare

In 2017, Islamic Relief Syria implemented several health projects to support hospitals and medical centres, which benefitted over 1.3 million Syrians. Highlights of our healthcare work include:

- Supporting 15 health facilities in Aleppo and Idlib with emergency medicine and medical supplies, benefitting around 33,700 people. In a separate emergency response in the year, we supported another 30,000 patients by equipping 11 health centres in Aleppo and another three in Idlib with essential medicine and medical supplies.
- Islamic Relief Syria supported the salaries of medical staff in Doma Hospital to enable them to keep working despite the siege, and delivered medical supplies to a health centre in Homs, benefitting 49,000 patients.
- In northern Syria, we supported a dialysis centre allowing over 4,400 patients to continue receiving treatment. Islamic Relief Syria provided disposable medical supplies and drugs as well as covering running costs including salaries, fuel and office equipment.
- In Al-Bab, northern Syria, Islamic Relief established a dialysis centre and also supported existing centres in both Al-Bab and Azaz, providing essential supplies and contributing to running costs. As a result, 1,740 patients received free haemodialysis treatment.
- Across northern Syria, Islamic Relief has been supporting the health infrastructure by establishing and running four mobile health units in Aleppo and Idlib, providing 60 primary health care centres with medicines, supporting 13 dialysis centres with medical kits and medicines and delivering disposable supplies to seven blood banks. We also trained 152 health workers and management staff in delivering better health services and coordinated with stakeholders to ensure an efficient and effective humanitarian response. In total, these projects benefitted almost 240,000 people.
- In-kind donations from Globus Relief benefitted over 233,000 patients.
- In Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Latakia, Islamic Relief Syria supported 77 primary healthcare centres including dialysis centres, laboratories, and blood banks with essential medicines and medical supplies. This allowed local health systems to continue functioning and providing life-saving treatment in conflict-affected areas. Over 600,000 people benefitted from this programme across northern Syria.
- Islamic Relief Syria also supported the emergency health services of 50 hospitals, seven physiotherapy centres and three thalassemia centres in northern Syria by providing essential medicines and disposable medical supplies. The project also involved supporting reproductive health training for doctors and midwives operating in some of the most difficult conditions in Syria. In total, these programmes benefitted over 324,000 people.
- In Bab Al Hawa Hospital, the largest in northern Syria, Islamic Relief supported better access to electricity and fuel supplies ensuring critical health services are not disrupted. We also installed a 125kW solar hybrid power system with energy storage, allowing over 70,600 people to have uninterrupted access to health services at the hospital.
- In 2017, we supported 16 paediatric health centres in northern Syria, giving babies and children access to better health services. Our work included providing basic medical supplies, general and specialist medicines, and paediatric health equipment, benefitting over 153,000 children.

1.3 + MILLION BENEFICIARIES

10 + MILLION MEDICAL ITEMS & DISPOSABLES

420 + DEVICES & EQUIPMENTS

165 + MEDICAL POINTS AND HOSPITALS

Islamic Relief's mobile clinic in rural Idlib allows urgent medical surgeries to take place.

“I WANT TO WALK WITH MY OWN TWO FEET AGAIN”

Hassan is a cheerful five-year-old boy from Aleppo. He and his sister Inas are being treated at Akrabat Hospital in northern Syria for injuries to their feet.

“Our mum was putting out the candle in my room when, without a sound, a barrel bomb dropped on us. My mum and two sisters died instantly, but Inas and I survived. We both screamed and cried in agony until three men rescued us from the rubble and took us to hospital.

The doctors here are looking after us and giving us medicine to reduce the pain in our feet. They told me they will remove the metal pins in my feet and I will learn to walk again. I love football and swimming and fishing in the sea, but right now I just want to be able to walk.

I love the doctors here – they are like mothers to me. Everyone here is so good, but I hope to get out of here. I want to become a photographer like you. I’ll take pictures of children and men to show in the daily news.

My sister is using crutches. When they remove the pins she will be able to walk again, but my friend Ibrahim’s injury is serious. He is staying in the room next to me. I pray he will recover. I visit him every day to check on him.

I pray that Allah heals all the patients who are in this hospital so they can walk with their own two feet again.”

Hassan receives medical treatment at one of rural Idlib’s hospitals after the bombardment of his house.

“NOTHING CAN SHOCK ME ANYMORE”

Ahmed Ghandoor is a Director and General Surgeon at the Al Rahma Hospital in Darkush, Idlib, where Islamic Relief has provided dialysis machines, incubators and X-ray and ultrasound machines.

“Life has changed immeasurably working as a doctor in Idlib. Horrific scenes of injured children screaming and howling in horror were once a shocking sight for me, but no longer.

It’s so hard to see whole groups of people in the throes of death because we don’t have what’s needed to treat them. People are dying because we don’t have ventilators to give them oxygen or cardiac catheters to check their hearts. Patients with diabetes are dying because of a lack of insulin supplies. They are begging us for survival but we can do nothing. Hospitals and doctors have themselves become a target.

Fortunately, we can treat children with renal failure here but other hospitals can’t. Even if we have the medical equipment, a lack of trained health workers is killing people. Five doctors and four nurses have fled this hospital, and those of us left are operating in very difficult conditions.

A few years ago my cousin was rushed into the hospital at night after being injured in a bomb attack. He was losing a lot of blood from his femoral artery and I needed to operate immediately, but there was no electricity. I had to use a simple head torch and a cigarette lighter.

Alhamdulilah, I managed to join the artery and save his life.

We work very long hours, up to 16 hours a day, and perform six to eight major operations as well as see about 40 or 50 patients daily. It can be exhausting. I used to spend a lot of time with my friends and family, but now my only social life is in the hospital.

Despite this, I’m here because I’m able to save lives. Recently, Inas, a beautiful young woman who was six months pregnant was severely injured in a bomb attack. She underwent a very difficult operation in which she sadly lost her unborn baby. She herself survived, albeit without a liver, and had to have her hand amputated. Not surprisingly, she was left in a state of shock but she never gave up hope. She is determined to complete her studies in medicine so she can treat victims of this war.

Like Inas, I am determined to continue my humanitarian work for our people. The smiles of children and the prayers of patients keeps me going. Allah is giving me strength and hope. When I save a child’s life I bring happiness to the hearts of their mothers and loved ones. I rarely see my own family now, so this is my only happiness.

My message to the world is to please stop this war in Syria. Stop the killing of children. Please let us live in peace. I pray for peace, but I don’t know if it will come. This war has been going on for more than six years now.”

Education and Child Welfare

In 2017, Islamic Relief Syria's education and child welfare programmes benefitted over 15,500 children. Highlights of our work include:

Supporting 8,000 children to attend school by providing them with school kits, training teachers and paying the monthly salaries of over 260 school staff for nine months of the academic year 2016-2017.

In Gaziantep, Turkey, we equipped two orphanages with items such as kitchen utensils, carpets, sewing machines and computers, improving the quality of life for around 180 Syrian orphans.

In Azaz, we supported over 470 orphans by providing them with food, hygiene kits, educational supplies, beds and mattresses.

Islamic Relief contributed to the running costs of Risalat Alghad School in northern Syria and provided 650 of its pupils with school kits. We have also been ensuring safe learning environments for displaced Syrian children in settlements in Azaz and Idlib by providing prefabricated classrooms, desks, stationery and paying the salaries of teachers. This project benefitted around 6,000 pupils and teaching staff.

"I WANT TO MAKE TOMORROW BRIGHT AGAIN"

Tasneem is 14 years old and has been living in Atmah camp in northern Syria since being forced to flee her home.

"I was forced to drop out of school for a long time until one of the organisations built a school for us in this camp. I was very happy with it and I'm doing everything I can to be educated. I study hard. I know I am one of the lucky ones. Schools don't exist in many areas in Syria. Children have to travel very long distances to get to schools in neighbouring villages.

Nothing is better than education. There are a lot of children here and I hope that they all get an education. We must put hope in all their hearts. Within this camp, and despite these difficulties, we will learn and we will build our future.

Syria is in a state of war, but we shouldn't despair and lose hope. There has to be a lot of hope in our hearts so that we can face all the risks. The war in my country will not stop us from drawing up our dreams and achieving them with strength and determination.

I wish the war would end and safety would return to this country. But I will live in the hope of success and excellence in spite of all the difficulties and obstacles. The day will come when I can go back to my home.

My dream is to become a doctor. To build, to work, to teach, to learn and make tomorrow bright again. To make a bright future for my Syria."

Tasneem benefits from Islamic Relief's education project in the IDPs camp in Idlib.

15,575
BENEFICIARIES

Children attend classes supported by Islamic Relief in Azaz, northern Syria.

Shelter and Survival

In 2017, Islamic Relief's shelter and survival programmes benefitted over 476,000 displaced people in their time of need. Highlights of our work include:

Providing emergency winter supplies for displaced people in Azaz, Idlib, and Aleppo, including blankets, mattresses, plastic sheets, solar lamps, jerry cans, clothes, heaters with fuel, hygiene kits, water trucking, solid waste deportation, plastic mats and kitchen sets.

280 newly displaced families from eastern Aleppo were provided with shelter including tents and survival items to protect against the harsh winter weather. More than 13,000 families were also provided with hygiene kits to help them through the initial period after fleeing their homes. We also provided another 185 displaced families with tents for shelter.

476,232
BENEFICIARIES

MORE THAN 1 MILLION WINTER ITEMS

54,342
HYGIENE KITS

Islamic Relief staff receive the displaced Syrians fleeing the bombing in northern Syria.

Displaced families in Azaz camps receive clean drinking water donated by Islamic Relief.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In 2017, Islamic Relief Syria's WASH programmes benefitted 156,000 people. Highlights of our work include:

Enhancing access to clean water and a cleaner environment for displaced and host communities in Azaz and Idlib. We supplied three camps in Azaz with water on a daily basis, hygiene kits and solid waste deportation for 5,500 families. In Idlib, we distributed monthly hygiene kits to 9,000 families and carried out water well maintenance benefitting 125,000 people.

Islamic Relief Syria also supported around 31,000 students in 14 camps in Azaz with clean water, solid waste deportation and hygiene kits.

Providing 18,000 households with hygiene kits as part of our emergency response programme in Aleppo City.

156,000
BENEFICIARIES

17
IDP CAMPS WITH CLEAN WATER

The Challenges Ahead

2017 was another devastating year for the people of Syria and a challenging one for those working to ease the suffering of the Syrian people.

Islamic Relief remains committed to meeting the humanitarian needs of the people of Syria in 2018 and beyond. The security and safety of those living in Syria, particularly in besieged areas, as well as those risking their lives to flee is an ongoing concern – as is the safety of our staff on the ground. Access to locations is another immense challenge as we continue to strive to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people.

OUR VALUES

إحسان
EXCELLENCE

إخلاص
SINCERITY

عدل
SOCIAL JUSTICE

رحمة
COMPASSION

أمانة
CUSTODIANSHIP

Islamic Relief Worldwide
19 Rea Street South
Birmingham
B5 6LB
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 121 605 5555
Fax: +44 121 622 5003

irw@irworldwide.org
www.islamic-relief.org

Facebook: islamicreliefworldwide
Twitter: irworldwide

Registered Charity No. 328158
Registered Company No. 02365572