

Poverty and Hope Appeal: July 2019 update from Syria



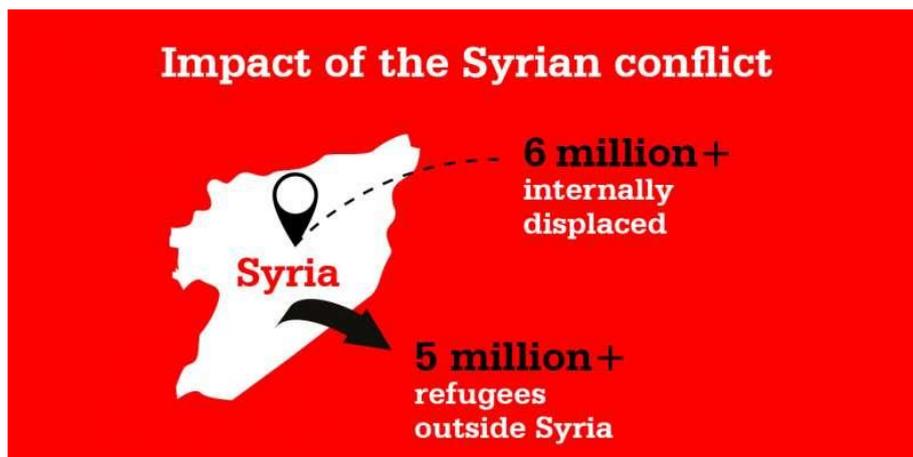
Work begins to provide education and training in Northern Syria

Partnered with Christian Aid, supported by Poverty and Hope since 2019.

This year's Poverty and Hope appeal marks the start of a three-year commitment to support a Christian Aid project providing education and training for young people in Northern Syria.

Christian Aid is working together with their partner in Syria to improve the skills, resilience and social inclusion of children and young people through education, psychosocial support, community involvement and peace-building dialogues. With your help, 15-25 year olds in four towns will receive remedial education, livelihoods training, community engagement and youth clubs. This age group are considered amongst the most at risk and vulnerable in Syria, with 2.1 million children out of school and an additional 1.3 million at risk of dropping out. This is a generation considered to be amongst the hardest hit by the war.

The Syrian conflict, which began in March 2011, has triggered the biggest displacement crisis of this century. Over 6 million Syrians are internally displaced, and at least another 5 million have fled across national borders as refugees. As government troops, armed opposition groups, and international forces battle for power and territory, the lives and wellbeing of women, men and children are threatened. Children and young people are particularly at risk of becoming a lost generation, with limited or no education and employment opportunities, and struggling with severe trauma caused by conflict.



Christian Aid has been working across the Middle East for decades, but only started working in Syria in 2013. In a country that is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises of our times, where over 11 million people require humanitarian assistance, and the UN has stopped counting the number of fatalities, there are a plethora of needs that are not being met.

Launching this project has been a significant challenge. Plans have had to be changed and adapted as the state of the conflict has shifted. However, Christian Aid are delighted that as of June 2019 the first education centre is now open in Idlib. Remedial education classes and vocational training have begun, and a youth

club has opened. In the coming weeks and months the project will be beginning similar activities in a second town.



Classes have begun at the new centre in Idlib

By providing a safe space, and an opportunity to get back into education, Christian Aid hope to provide these young people with the power to reclaim their own futures. Remedial classes in basic subjects will enable children to complete high school, and they are offering scholarships for higher education. Vocational training in nursing and other areas, such as accounting, will offer adolescents who have spent the last eight years having their prospects limited by war a chance to plan a way out of the poverty forced upon them by the conflict. They will have access to psychologists and mental health workers, in an attempt to address the psychological scars that will have ensued from having spent their formative years living through such a brutal conflict.



New centres like the one in Idlib will be opening soon



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The European Union is funding 90% of the project in Syria. Christian Aid is committed to raising the remaining 10% through appeals and other donations.

The Poverty and Hope Appeal is part of the Diocese of Rochester, charity no. 249339.