

# IHH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOUNDATION REPORT ON SYRIA

(MAY 2011 - NOVEMBER 2012)



**INSANI** THE FOUNDATION FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FREEDOMS AND  
HUMANITARIAN RELIEF  
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## INTRODUCTION

**T**his report is focused on the humanitarian aspects of the ongoing crisis that began in Syria in March 2011 and the relief efforts undertaken by the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation for the victimized Syrian people. The number of people affected by the crisis progressively rising and the violent events taking place continuing to inflict irreparable damage both on society and the lives of individuals makes it vital to increase efforts in order to rapidly solve the problem. This report, aiming to set forth the situation of victimized Syrians, has been prepared with the hope to contribute the efforts for healing of the Syrian people affected by the crisis.







## HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION OF THE SYRIAN CRISIS

### 1. Crisis Background

Syria, ruled under a state of emergency following the military coup exercised by the Ba'ath Party in 1963, has been governed by the Assad family since 1970. The fight for freedom led by the Syrian Ikhwan-i Muslimin movement against Hafez al-Assad, the only authority in the country following the coup, has become the most prominent rivaling movement of the period. Taking extremely strict measures against the rebels' fight for freedom, Hafez al-Assad has chosen a violent path causing the Hama Massacre in 1982 where approximately 50,000 people were killed and 20,000 were reported missing. Several massacres were also undertaken in many other regions, particularly Tedmur, in attempts to suppress the public demand for freedom.

Having struggled with cruelty, oppression, fraud and poverty for 48 years, the Syrian people are once more facing a mass slaughter today. The events, having begun with 15 children of the same family, aged between 9 and 15, writing "We want freedom, we want democracy" on school walls in Deraa in March 2011 being arrested and subjected to torture by the removal of their fingernails, and the relatives of these children taking to the streets to protest these events, have spread to different cities such as Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Humus, Banyas and Latakia and turned into a nation-wide uprising.

The Syrian people, peacefully demanding reform

by holding protests only after Friday prayers for six months as of March 2011, have not used a single slogan favoring the overthrowing of the government or violence during this period. They have only voiced their wishes towards reforms in order to live in more liberated conditions and have chanted slogans related to the unity of Syria. Upon the protests becoming widespread, Bashar al-Assad made international announcements from the assembly in Damascus in March and April 2011 that he would undertake reforms on various issues, such as people's rights to organize, form parties, syndicate rights, independent elections,



the provision of social justice and the protection of minorities' rights, such as the Turkmen, Kurdish, Arabic people living within Syria, yet has failed to live up to any of these promises and instead has deployed firearms to suppress the protesters and caused hundreds of people to die, and thousands to be injured or left handicapped. Many people have been arrested and placed in prison.

The people, witnessing more and more deaths and arrests of their peers, have lost all hope in the possibility of change in Bashar al-Assad's policies and the peaceful protests have been replaced by a revolt that supports the idea of overthrowing the regime. The events since July 2011 have taken an even more severe turn with the people taking up arms to defend themselves against the armed regime.

## 2. Current Situation

Despite the censoring exercised by the Syrian government, the news from the region shows tens of thousands affected by the violent events.

As of November 2012, official numbers report that 970 have been tortured while a total of 47,000 people, 2,148 being children, have been killed; unofficial sources state that the death toll is much higher than reported. On the other hand reports also state that thousands have been injured in the massacres, 400,000 people have been arrested, 600,000 have been forced to immigrate to neighboring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey, 2.5 million have relocated within the country, 1.5 million live on the hunger limit and 100,000 are missing. Meanwhile, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders - RSF) data shows that since the escalation of these events, over 17 journalists working in Syria have been killed while over 30 are missing.

Persons killed	47.000
Children killed	2.148
Persons injured	250.000
Persons arrested	400.000
Persons missing	100.000
Persons displaced (within Syria)	2.500.000
Persons displaced (outside of Syria)	600.000

\* Above data is subject to frequent change and these numbers only display the information on record.

COUNTRY	REGION	REFUGEE LIVING AREAS	NUMBER OF PERSONS
TURKEY	Hatay	1. Reyhanlı Camp	12.437
		2. Altınözü Camp 1	
		3. Altınözü Camp 2	
		4. Apaydın Camp	
		5. Yayladağı 1 Camp	
		6. Yayladağı 2 Camp	
	Gaziantep	1. Islahiye Camp	22.663
		2. Karkamış Camp	
	Kilis	3. Nizip Tent Town	13.298
Öncüpınar Container Town			
Şanlıurfa	1. Ceylanpınar Camp	41.680	
	2. Akçakale Camp		
Kahramanmaraş	Merkez Tent Town	15.111	
	Osmaniye		
Adıyaman	Cevdediye Tent Town	8.183	
	Merkez Tent Town		
	Number of patients and wounded in hospitals		698
	Total		120.147
LEBANON			93.110
JORDAN			91.064
IRAQ			54.175
FINAL TOTAL			238.349

According to the November 2012 data from the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), the total number of Syrians that have entered Turkey is 168,985, the total number of Syrians who have returned to their country is 48,838 and the number of Syrians currently in Turkey is 120,147.





## IHH'S RELIEF EFFORTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation has been undertaking various relief efforts since March 2011 in order to provide Syrian refugees taking asylum in neighboring countries with basic necessities, such as shelter, food and healthcare. The provided relief items include the below item types.

**Nutriture:** Kinds of canned food; chicken, bean, tuna fish, meat, green beans and eggplant, dried food; bulgur, pasta, corn or sunflower oil, white bean, tomatoes paste, sugar, date, types of jam, halwa, red lentil, flour, sourdough and sehri package (olive oil, thyme bland, tahini, jam, molasses, cheese, olives, halva, cacao halwa) during the holy month of Ramadan.

**Child package:** Milk, baby formula, baby biscuits, fruit juices, biscuits.

**Baby package:** Baby biscuits, pasteurized milk, baby formula, nutritional supplements (rice flour), baby shampoo, diapers, wet napkins.

**Clothing:** Daily clothes, underwear, pajamas, slippers, shoes.

**Hygiene package:** Diapers, hygienic pads, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, detergent, shaving razors, combs, napkins, wet napkins, shampoos, hand-wash laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid.

**Health:** Wheelchairs, medicine, crutches, astringents, serum, medical consumables, first aid kits, health kits, patient kits.

**Prayer set:** A copy of the Quran, prayer beads, prayer caps, prayer rugs.

**Misc. aid items:** Linens, pillows, blankets, straw mats, beds, kitchen sets, tea glasses, teaspoons, spoons, forks, tablecloths.





**Eid package:** Eid candy, rose water, cologne.

**Newborn set:** Baby slings, baby swings, shampoos, soap, napkin holders, underwear, children's clothing bags, slippers, baby one-pieces.

**Shelter aid items:** Tents, containers, mats, blankets, sleeping bags, generators, straw mats, electricity-powered rechargeable lanterns.

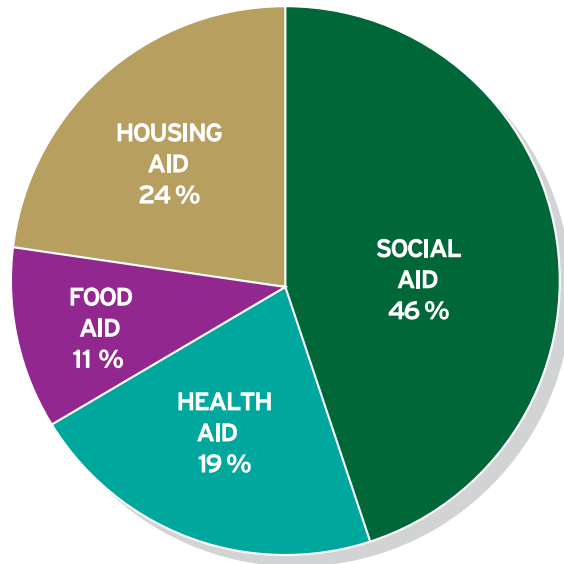
The aid is being delivered to the victims in Syria through the IHH Coordination offices in the Kilis and Hatay Reyhanli border regions where the refugees are located and the IHH teams in Syria.



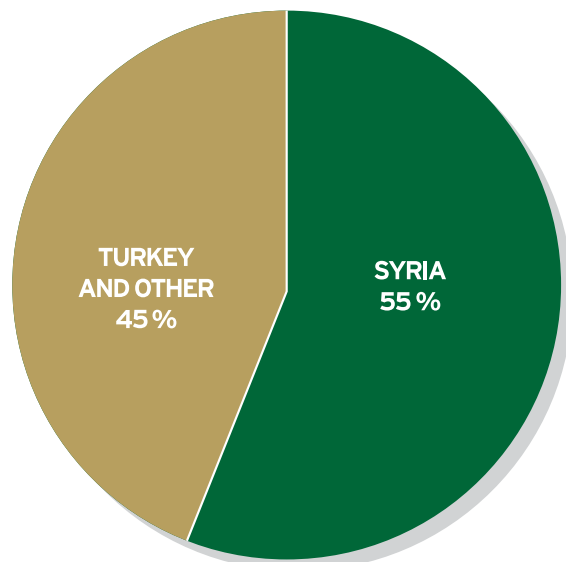
MATERIAL AND CASH AID DONATED FOR THE SYRIA RELIEF CAMPAIGN	
CASH AID	TRY 19,699,183
MATERIAL AID	TRY 3,290,039
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TRY 22,989,222</b>

MATERIAL AND CASH AID PROVIDED FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES	
CASH AID	TRY 16,874,982
MATERIAL AID	TRY 4,024,635
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TRY 20,899,617</b>

DISTRIBUTION OF AID PROVIDED IN SYRIA (%)



DISTRIBUTION OF AID BY REGION FOR SYRIAN PEOPLE (%)







## 1. Regions where emergency relief activities are carried out

### a. Reyhanlı, Altınözü, Boynuyoğun, Apaydın, Yayladağı 1, Yayladağı 2 camps and Nişrin and Güveççi villages in Hatay on the Turkish border with Syria, Islahiye camp in Gaziantep, Ceylanpınar tent town in Şanlıurfa and a container town in Kilis.

Refugee flow from Syria to Turkey began in June 2011. Following the developments closely from the very first day, IHH immediately sent a mobile kitchen for Syrians who took refuge in Turkey's south. The mobile kitchen provides hot meal for 12,000 persons per day.

In the following days, the foundation provided financial aid and other kinds of relief items to the refugees. In addition to offering them medical examinations IHH officials visited Syrian refugees being treated at different hospitals, provided them with the necessary medicine and helped the transfer of some patients to other hospitals outside Antakya for them to receive better treatment. IHH also took patients who were discharged from hospital to the refugee camps and continued to provide medical assistance and medicine to these people in the camps.

Syrian refugees in Hatay and Kilis were provided with 2,600 packages of meat while families in need in Syria received 1,600 packages of meat during the Eid al-Adha. A total of 14,000 shoes were handed out to refugees waiting on the Hatay, Reyhanlı and Kilis borders. IHH is keeping close track of humanitarian aid activities for Syrian refugees/immigrants



with coordination offices in Kilis and Hatay and the aid teams deployed to the region.

Having initially begun providing services in Hatay, IHH currently has one health truck providing services on the Bab al-Hawa Border Gate, and another on the Babu's-Selam Border Gate on the Syrian side of the Kilis Oncupinar Border Gate. Providing services between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m., the health truck has 70-80 refugees examined each day and handles the distribution of medicine. The health truck has a practitioner, an otorhinolaryngologist, a gynecologist and a cardiologist providing services.

### **b. Akkar, Vadi Halit, Ersal neighborhoods on Lebanese-Syrian border**

IHH has been carrying out relief efforts in Akkar, Vadi Halit, Ersal neighborhoods on the Lebanese-Syrian border since May 2011. The amount of aid delivered by IHH so far has reached \$450,000. The first aid item delivered to the refugees in the region by IHH were food packages which included cooking oil, rice, sugar, tea, salt, canned fish and legumes. Clothing was also delivered to children aged 0-14 in addition to hygiene kits and cleaning supplies to places where refugees stay or jointly use, such as sports halls. The latest aid delivery in the region took place during the holy month of Ramadan 2012 and for this food packages including meat and vegetables were delivered to 330 families,







three blankets and three beds were delivered to 100 families and 60 liters of diesel fuel was delivered to 80 families each.

### c. Syria

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation has been effectively undertaking relief activities both for Syrians obliged to leave their homes and Palestinian refugees since June 2012. Particularly during the activities in Deraa, main necessities such as astringent medicine and food were provided and the people, having lost all their property, were aided financially as well. Currently 10,000 refugees in the Atmaca, Azez, Reyhanli and Kilis borders of Syria receive food twice a day as well as healthcare services. Cleaning materials, hygiene kits, clothing, blankets, tents, medicine, generators, basic food items (dry food, legumes and breakfast food) as well as flour and sourdough are regularly being handed out, particularly in the Damascus, Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, Humus, Lakatia (shore towns) Humus and Rakka regions.

### d. Jordan

A total of 91,064 Syrians have sought refuge in Jordan since March 2011 and 30,000 of whom are in dire need. The refugees were located either in the Jabal el-Hussein Camp or Nizal neighborhood in the capital city of Amman where Palestinian refugees also stay or they took refuge with their relatives who live in the northern provinces of



Jordan such as Ramsa and al-Mafraq on the Syrian-Lebanese border. Although Jordanian administration does not turn a blind eye to the problems of the Syrian refugees, it fails to take the necessary steps for their settlement because it does not want to create political tension with Syria. IHH delivered food packages, bottled gas, cooker and carpets to 3,000 refugees in Ramsa, al-Mafraq and Amman in an aid campaign in March 2012. Meanwhile, 2000 people received emergency food aid during the holy month Ramadan in 2012 as well.

## 2. Institutional Cooperation and Relief Activities

Non-governmental organizations in Turkey and international organizations are cooperating with an aim to jointly carry out humanitarian relief activities for Syria. 40 numbers of NGOs and humanitarian relief groups all over the world contributed to the Syria Aid Campaign of IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation either by aid in kind and cash or by conducted aid activities in the refugee camps of Turkey by having logistic support from IHH. Additionally, 200 volunteers of IHH from different countries took part in the aid activities for the refugees in Turkey.







### 3. IHH in International Convocations on the Humanitarian Crisis in Syria

While providing consistent humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, who are subject to oppression and violence while looking to claim their rights with protests and have lost 30,000 of their own, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation also raises the subjects of violation of Syrian people's rights in national and international conventions and undertakes work in humanitarian diplomacy.

Some major examples of these international attempts are the Syrian Humanitarian Aid Forums undertaken in Geneva on July 16, 2012, by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA). Attending two of these meetings, which included nation representatives as well as civil society organization representatives present, IHH has voiced the nature of the crisis in light of information obtained during their work in the region, shared all potential aid methods with the attendants and has offered global cooperation.

Aside from the UN meetings, IHH has attended conventions organized with or separate from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Arab League and the Humanitarian Forum, made presentations and taken an active role in workshops. Issues related to the Syrian crisis, including the

following, were discussed in detail and reports prepared in meetings organized with the attendance of UN sub-units, Red Crescent and Red Cross organizations and international NGO representatives:

- Eliminating the obstacles before the delivery of humanitarian aid in Syria, dissociating humanitarian aid issues and political conflicts,
- Supplying all the basic necessities of refugees taking asylum in neighboring countries,
- Preparing against bigger potential crises,



- Determining human rights violations and calling international mechanisms for duty,
- Ensuring the safety of persons undertaking humanitarian aid activities,
- The cooperation of establishments and organizations undertaking similar practices.

#### 4. Humanitarian Diplomacy Carried Out by IHH for the People of Syria

With the humanitarian diplomacy endeavors undertaken since its foundation, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation strives to provide the most efficient aid possible to civilians victimized in the crisis areas. Focusing on endeavors of this nature in attempts to solve the problems that have come to light with the Syrian crisis, IHH's last effort in this context has borne its fruits in the past few months. IHH has ended the two-month captivity of Adem Özköse, a journalist, and a cameraman, Hamit Coşkun, who were in Syria filming a documentary, and ensured their safe return to their families. IHH continues to undertake attempts to ensure civilians from other countries are also released from Syrian captivity and returned to their countries. In the same light, IHH is also focusing intensive efforts on the release of innocents, particularly children and women, who are kept in Syrian prisons or dungeons.

In attempts to provide solutions to the crisis in Syria and to prevent it from escalating further, IHH is meeting with the religious leaders and opinion leaders of neighboring countries and is striving to form a public opinion to ensure being reasonable is the dominant factor.

In this context, once more, diplomats, researchers and media members visiting IHH are provided with information about IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation's humanitarian aid and awareness-raising activities and various suggestions for solutions.

IHH is currently continuing its attempts for the release of journalists and civilians held captive in Syria.

#### 5. Provision of Basic Aid Items for the People of Syria

In a constant struggle for life both in Syria and the refugee camps in countries they have sought refuge from, Syrian people require consistent emergency aid. Along with prioritizing winter aid due to the winter season approaching, the aid item types below also need to be consistently provided.



**a) Nutriture:** Kinds of canned food; chicken, red bean, tuna fish, meat, green bean, bean and eggplant, dried food; rice, bulgur, pasta, bean, oil, red lentil, flour.

**Baby package:** Baby biscuits, baby formula, diapers, wet napkins, pasteurized milk, baby shampoo, nutritional supplements (rice flour).

**Food package:** Sugar, rice, lentils, pasta, bulgur, jam, sunflower oil, tomato paste, halwa, chickpeas.

**b) Health:** Astringents, serums, medicine, medical consumables, first aid kits, health kits, patient kits.

**c) Hygiene package:** Shampoo, hand soap, bath soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, hygienic pads, hand-wash laundry detergent, wet napkins, toilet paper, dishwashing liquid.

**d) Shelter aid items:** Winter tents, containers, mats, blankets, sleeping bags, straw mats, electricity-powered rechargeable lanterns, generators, heating stoves, heaters, diesel oil for bakeries.

**e) Clothing:** Boots, winter shoes, gloves, scarves, various winter clothing, winter hats, jackets, winter coats.







## CONCLUSION

### Evaluation and Suggestions for Solutions

Due to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, over 100 people lose their lives each day while hundreds of thousands experience significant losses due to attacks and looting. This humanitarian crisis, causing extensive damage throughout the country and expected to have long-term effects, has to be ended swiftly. With the guidance of Syrian people's will, attempts must be made to establish a fair and free order. In this context;

- 1.** In order to provide constant and regular humanitarian aid to Syrians affected by the crisis trying to survive in Syria and refugee camps in other countries through aid, more extensive food campaigns should be organized.
- 2.** To protect refugees from potential illnesses that may be caused by cold weather due to the upcoming winter season and prevent negative situations that might thus arise, provisions such as blankets, heaters, winter clothing, warm food and if necessary insulation work in the refugee shelters must be prioritized and aid must continue to be provided.
- 3.** A humanitarian aid corridor should be formed to ensure the healthy delivery of aid to the region.
- 4.** To resolve the humanitarian crisis in Syria with the guidance of Syrian people's will, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League must hold a summit.
- 5.** In order to prevent the ongoing crisis from turning into a battle of sects, NGOs, opinion leaders and scholars should actively strive to solve the problem.
- 6.** Official visits from all over the world to Syrian NGOs should be ensured, in order to bring the humanitarian crisis in Syria to the world's public agenda.
- 7.** Due to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Syria, a great number of Syrian people are in danger of severe food and health problems. Today the number of Syrian refugees only in Turkey reached to 120.147. From this point forth, it is vital to have a cooperation between NGOs in Turkey. By the support of NGOs, there should be an Emergency Syrian crisis desk formed in Turkey.
- 8.** Observation and investigation teams formed primarily by civil society organizations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), United Nations, European Union, Arab Union and similar international mechanisms should visit the region and conduct on site investigations.
- 9.** International human rights organizations should conduct inspections in prisons.
- 10.** Working on protecting civilians should be increased and focused on, and protective precautions should be taken in this context.
- 11.** Attempts must be made to determine if parties are abiding by the law of arms and if illegal weapons are in use and to prevent unlawful practices if present.
- 12.** The release of women and children kept captive and hostage must be ensured.



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