

# SHELTER FOR SYRIANS



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A SHELTERBOX  
PROGRESS UPDATE

MARCH  
2019



*Photo: Ahmed is a 35-year-old Syrian refugee. He and his wife and seven children received ShelterBox aid, including this tent.*

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**ShelterBox**  
Disaster relief

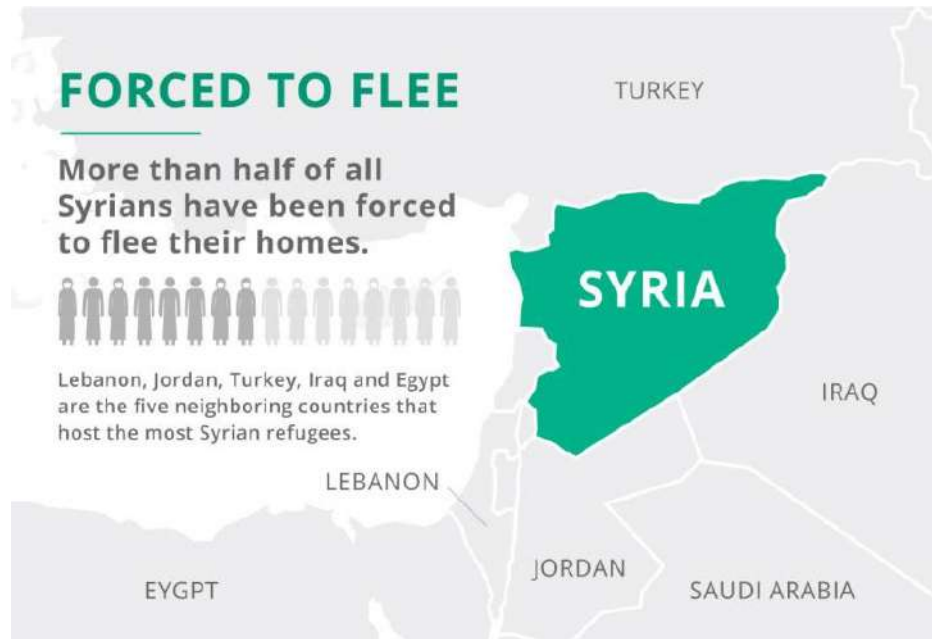
# OVERVIEW OF THE CRISIS

**The conflict in Syria dates back to March 2011.** It started out as a peaceful protest, with public demonstrations calling for democratic reforms, but the peaceful demonstrations were met by swift government opposition, eventually giving way to a brutal war.

Today, the conflict is complex and violent. It has become an internationally backed power struggle between government forces and a mix of opposition groups – including the so called Islamic State. Reports of war crimes are widespread.

After eight long years of prolonged violence, Syria's future is as uncertain now as it was when the fighting first broke out. But one thing remains constant; Syria's civilians continue to pay the price. Now is a time of uncertainty in Syria, and the future of millions hangs in the balance.

More than 5.6 million people have fled Syria during that time and 6.2 million more are internally displaced.



# KEY FACTS

- The war has lasted eight years, and counting
- 13 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance
- One in four schools have been damaged, destroyed or used for shelter
- Over half of Syria's hospitals are no longer functioning
- Millions of acres of farmland have been destroyed or abandoned
- More than half of all Syrians have been forced to flee their homes
- Over 5.6 million Syrians have become refugees

*Sources: OCHA (United Nations Office For The Coordination Of Humanitarian Affairs), Syrian Arab Republic, About the Crisis*



***The Syrian crisis is the longest response in ShelterBox's history. Since 2012, ShelterBox has supported more than 50,000 families displaced by the conflict.***

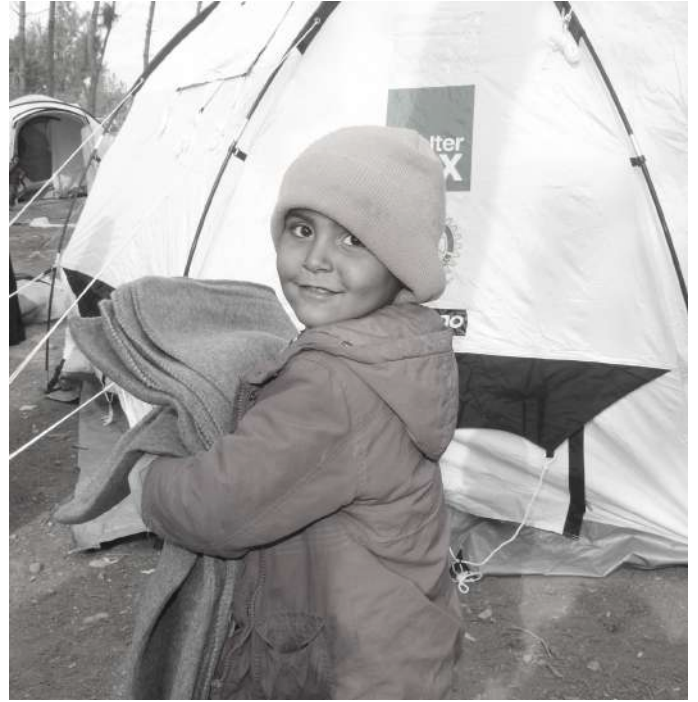


# OUR COMMITMENT

**ShelterBox's commitment is to bring protection and comfort to families forced to flee or whose homes are badly damaged by the ongoing violence.**

We are providing shelter for families who have been forced to leave their homes. Syria faces extreme heat in the summer and freezing temperatures in the winter, so our aid is designed to reduce their vulnerability to weather and environmental extremes.

When families are far from home, and traumatized from their experiences, having a safe place to call home is invaluable.



Our aim is to help vulnerable people who are not being reached by other aid organizations. ShelterBox has been continuously responding to the Syrian crisis since 2012, providing shelter and basic household supplies to thousands of Syrian refugees and IDPs.

## A SELECTION OF AID



**FAMILY SIZED TENTS**



**BLANKETS**



**SOLAR LIGHTS**

ShelterBox has supported families affected by the conflict by providing tents, tarpaulins, water carriers, solar lights, mattresses, and children's winter clothing, among other critical aid items.

Our equipment helps people feel safe amidst the chaos.



# AHMAD'S STORY

**Ahmad, his wife and his eight children had been living in a displacement camp for 40 days when we first met them.** Like most families in the camp, they were forced to leave their home in Northern Syria because bombs and shelling left their neighborhood in ruins.

The journey to the camp wasn't easy. After fleeing their home with nothing, they found refuge in a nearby village. But thanks to more shelling, within a week they had to move again - this time hiding in a forest. Taking cover under the trees the family lay in the dark unable to sleep from the noise of the bombing, the rain and the cold.

When Ahmad's family finally made it to the displacement camp, a kind man gave them a tent constructed of old tarpaulins and blankets roughly secured with a piece of rope. Although they were grateful for what they had been given, the flimsy shelter couldn't protect them from the rain and cold, and they had no food other than bread and olives.

Working in partnership with ReliefAid, we provided Ahmad with the tools needed to start the process of recovery. With insulation materials, mattresses, blankets, cooking sets and solar lamps the family can protect themselves from the bitter cold and start to pick up the threads of everyday life. Recovery doesn't happen overnight. But the sooner that life starts to resemble normality, not just with physical shelter, but with kitchen utensils that help provide regular family meals and solar lights that illuminate the darkness, the sooner life regains its normal rhythm.



***"Now we sleep on mattresses and we are warm because of the blankets. The lamps are very useful at night, because the children were afraid of the dark."***



# HOW IT'S POSSIBLE

**Our in-country distribution partners help us provide aid in some of the most remote and dangerous conflict zones around the world.**

In Syria, we're working with Hand in Hand for Aid and Development, ReliefAid and Bahar Organisation to get our aid to those who need it the most. These partners, rooted in communities, help us go the last mile to deliver a diverse range of emergency shelter aid to remote and vulnerable people.



***THANK YOU. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many supporters who have enabled our work. While much of this relief work doesn't make the headlines, it is critical for these families who are struggling to survive.***



**While we do not know when the war in Syria will end,** we do know that throughout Syria, tens of thousands of displaced families are able to stay together, their children are better protected from the weather, and your gift is empowering people displaced by the chaos.

