

# SYRIA

Violence in Syria is ongoing, with little sign of the conflict abating. There are some 6.3 million internally displaced people, and humanitarian needs are increasing. The level of destruction and collapse of social services have impacted the ability of communities to maintain livelihoods, essential services and productive assets.

The conflict has radically reshaped the demographics of a region with an already delicate ethnic and religious balance, and scarce resources. Refugees from Syria and Iraq have poured across the borders of neighbouring states to escape fighting. The majority are being absorbed into local communities in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. As a result, the populations of towns that were already hard-pressed to provide essential services doubled and tripled.

Canada has a three-year strategy for comprehensive security, stabilization, humanitarian and development assistance in response to the crises in Iraq and Syria, and their impact on Jordan and Lebanon. As part of that, Canada's development programming for Syria focuses on:

- building the resilience of individuals, households, communities and systems so they can better withstand the effects of the crisis; and
- enabling the international community and Syrians to prepare for eventual efforts to rebuild the country.

Given immediate needs inside Syria and the ongoing challenges to delivering long-term development assistance to the people of Syria, Canada's support is heavily focused on shorter-term, life-saving humanitarian assistance.



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