

2021

Project Profile

MISSION ONE

through the Global Church

REPATRIATION AND SELF-RELIANCE OF SYRIAN REFUGEE PROJECT

The Syrian refugee crisis is the largest in the world, forcing more than 6.6 million people to flee to nearby countries. After a decade of war, a new repatriation and self-reliance project will help Syrian refugees resettle in their home country by assisting them with official paperwork, rebuilding their homes, and helping them start sustainable small businesses.

In March of 2011, violent Syrian government crackdowns on public, anti-government demonstrations sparked country-wide violence and led to a massive wave of refugees fleeing for their lives. A decade later, the Syrian refugee crisis is the largest in the world, forcing more than 6.6 million people to flee their country, with another 6.7 million people internally displaced. The majority of refugees have fled to nearby Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.

Mission ONE partners in Lebanon—where an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees reside—have responded to this refugee crisis for many years with a holistic vision of caring for these refugees spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Fatima, her husband, Ahmed, and her three kids have been living as Syrian refugees in Lebanon since the beginning of the war and have been receiving help through Mission ONE partners. Although he was a vocational teacher back in Syria, Ahmed is working as a gatekeeper in Lebanon and can barely pay for his family's daily living expenses.

Lately, the intense economic crisis in Lebanon has strained many refugee families, including Fatima's. Because of the increasing needs of her children, Fatima has decided to go back to a safe region of Syria with her family while her husband remains in Lebanon. While Mission ONE partners will continue to support refugees living throughout Lebanon, they have begun to help Syrian refugees like Fatima return to their homeland, reunite with family members, and rebuild their lives.

OUR PLAN

The Repatriation and Self-Reliance project will assist Syrian refugees during this emotional time of transition, offering practical and emotional support as they re-establish their lives in a new, albeit familiar place. After the initial assessment with Mission ONE partners, the first phase of repatriation consists of the refugee family submitting official paperwork to return home and beginning to sell their possessions. This can take anywhere from two weeks to six months, depending on the current border situation.

Once the family obtains the needed paperwork and crosses the border back into Syria, the second phase of repatriation begins. Together with Mission ONE partners, refugees rebuild their family homes and develop a sustainable, income-generating plan for their small businesses. This second phase can happen relatively quickly, with the home-building process taking around two months.

DESIRED IMPACT

Syrian families that have lived through the trauma of war and separation from family, friends, and their own culture are desperate to return to a sense of familiarity. This repatriation project not only allows refugees to resettle in their home country in a safe context but also provides them with a roof over their heads and a means to pursue a more promising future through a small business. Over time, these families will contribute to the flourishing of the entire community through their businesses, homes, and raising the next generation.

In Fatima's case, when she gets to Syria, she will live with her in-laws while her home is being rebuilt. Once she begins to resettle in her new home, reacquainting herself with familiar surroundings and long-lost friends, she will work with a Mission ONE team to form a viable business and make it a reality. After one year, Fatima's business should be able to provide for her family and contribute to the flourishing of the entire community.

MEASURABLE GOALS

- Repatriate 20 Syrian refugee families into newly-constructed houses by the end of 2021
- Help each family establish a small business with a plan to achieve financial sustainability over a one-year period
- Where applicable, witness children restarting their education in Syria

