

EXPERIENCES FROM PARENTS

Bassam Al Rahal is a dad of three boys and unfortunately, at the time of speaking to SCIAF, his wife was ill. The family came to Lebanon after leaving Syria. The family received money to pay for transport for their children to go to school and to pay for general household costs. This is his story.

“I had a normal life in Syria. I owned three houses and a farm. I was a chef and a farmer.

When the demonstrations started it was ok. But then trouble came. We had to move a lot to find work. My family was moving with me all the time. It’s now been three or four months since I worked. The other day I helped someone chop some wood.

Last year Caritas Lebanon helped me to get the children to school by paying the transport fees and gave us some money to help with general household costs.

I hope I can find work and then I won’t need help.

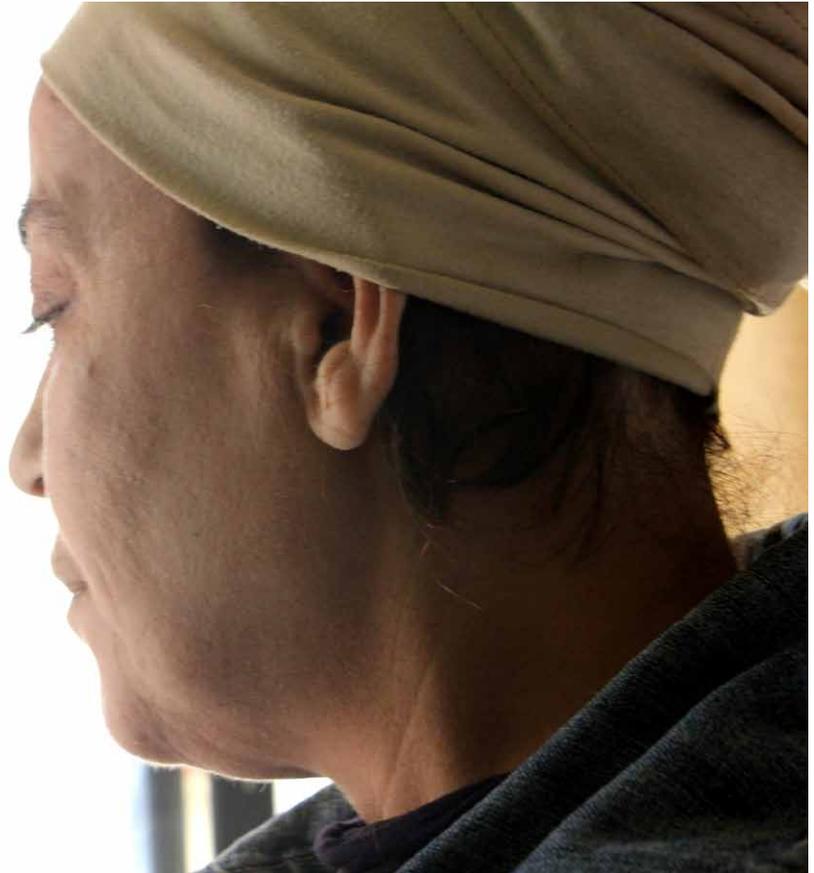
I still haven’t adapted to life here after three or four years. All Syrian children feel marginalised.

The most important thing is to get education for my children. Education at home is important. The level of education here is not good. That’s why it’s important to teach at home.



I would love to see Syria healed and for us to go home. We will always be refugees here.

I really want to thank you for your help. Caritas Lebanon is the only organisation that has helped us.”



Hiam Ali Zameti is 48 years old she has two daughters aged 12 and 13. They fled Syria in 2012 and Caritas Lebanon helped to pay for medicine and a medical report. This is her story.

“My husband died before the crisis in Syria. I just had the girls. The army and terrorists broke into the house many times. Then the bombs started to fall and we fled.

At first we fled and searched for a place to hide and then we came to Lebanon. I don't know where my uncle is and I heard my cousin received a bad injury to his foot.

I was incapable of finding work and a home. In our culture women didn't go out to work. There is three of us in a small room. The girls aren't allowed out.

At first I felt a pain in my chest. There is a small tumour. I went to the hospital and learned I had lung cancer. I am having to pay for the chemotherapy every three weeks. It is very difficult. I have a friend who helps me by cooking food for the girls.

I am scared for my daughters lives. If I have a seizure what will happen to them. This is my main concern.

I hope for a decent life and to work and earn an income. But now I'm ill I can't work. I hope my girls get an education.”

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official overseas aid and development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 19 Park Circus, Glasgow, G3 6BE Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302 Company No: SC197327.