

Case study

Stories from Syria

Families in Syria have been caught up in an ongoing civil war since early 2011. The war has killed hundreds of thousands of people since it began. Bustling cities have been reduced to rubble, and small towns and villages have been destroyed. Every year of the conflict has seen more and more refugees and more people killed.

- **Over 511,000 people have been killed in Syria alone**
- **More than 11 million people were forced from their homes and needed assistance in Syria**
- **More than 5 million people left the country to escape the fighting and fled to neighbouring countries including Lebanon or Jordan**

Bassam Al Rahal and his family fled Syria into Lebanon after the fighting got worse.

“I had a normal life in Syria. I owned three houses and a farm. I was a chef and a farmer. Life in Lebanon has been hard and the family moved around while Bassam looked for 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.”

The family are grateful for the help they received help from Caritas Lebanon, but they really want to go back home to Syria.

“I still haven’t adapted to life here after three or four years. I would love to see Syria healed and for us to go home.”



By late 2018 Syria was largely under the control of the Syrian Government. So, the process of recovery could slowly begin. For the communities returning to their homes, SCIAF supported Caritas Syria to provide food, medical care, shelter, stoves, blankets and mattresses to the most vulnerable families.

Abd Al Naseeh fled his home in April 2012 after the violence erupted. He moved around Syria for 6 years looking for a safe place.

“I lost three cousins. Anyone who moved around, if they stopped you they would decide whether to kill you or not.”

He returned to his home in the rural city of Homs, in August 2018 to find it was completely destroyed by the bombings.

“The situation is not very good. I’m very happy to be back home where I spent all my life. I don’t mind the damage, I’m just glad to be home. We are trying to ignore the damage. We hope Homs will return and all the families too.”



Through the local church and Caritas, SCIAF are helping over 44,000 people in Syria with emergency food, clothes, blankets, fuel for heating their homes and cash to buy other essentials. We’re also helping to repair and refurnish the homes of people whose lives have been left in shreds.

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327.