Idlib Crisis

 According to the latest United Nations reports, at least 960,000 people have been displaced in northwest Syria since December. In late February 2020, UN Humanitarian Coordinator Mark Lowcock reported, “almost 50,000 people are sheltering under trees or other open spaces, no where is safe...I am getting daily reports of babies and other young children dying in the cold. Imagine the grief of a parent who escaped a warzone with their child, only to watch that child freeze to death.” Continued...

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development

is a nonprofit relief and development organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering and supporting individuals and their communities in their efforts to become more self-sufficient.

Incorporated in 1988, Mercy-USA’s projects focus on improving health, nutrition and access to safe water, as well as promoting economic and educational growth around the world.

• Registered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
• Special Consultative Status with the United Nations
• Member of InterAction

Headquarters
44450 Pinetree Drive, Suite 201
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-3869
Phone: 734-454-0011  800-556-3729
FAX: 734-454-0303  info@mercyusa.org

Other Mercy-USA Offices
Tirana, Albania
Tripoli, Lebanon
Tuzla, Bosnia
Mogadishu, Somalia
Medan, Indonesia
Antakya, Turkey
Nairobi, Kenya
Fleeing Death in Idlib

Continued from page 1... Some of our senior field staff who have been with us since the war began are reporting worsening conditions in real time. One senior field team manager told us as he was preparing his family to evacuate Idlib, “This is worse than the siege on Aleppo because this time there is nowhere left for us to go.”

Since 2013, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development has had teams inside Syria providing humanitarian aid to children and their families. Because of our consistent and effective implementation of large food basket distributions over these years, we’re pleased to announce our number of families served with nutritious food has increased exponentially. Through generous grants and in partnership with the World Food Program, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the International Organization for Migration, we have been able to scale up this project and serve more than 230,000 people in northern Syria with food baskets. Many families have told us that our food baskets are all that they have to survive each month.

Growing up, getting married and raising a family in an IDP Camp

Just barely out of their teens, Alaa and his wife, Jinan are raising two toddlers in a camp in the northern part of Idlib province Syria. They both fled their village outside of Hama with their families eight years ago. “I don’t have many good memories of our life there; we left when I was only 12 and most of my recollections are of terror,” Jinan told us. “I can’t forget the horrible sounds of rockets hitting buildings; the bricks flying around us; the sounds of shattered glass, and the people crying out for help.”

Their camp, near the Turkish border was chosen with the thought that it would be safer. But for the last eight years, the two grew into adulthood knowing only fear, hardship and hunger. They met and married in the camp and are raising a daughter and son, two and three years old.

Alaa told us that each day it becomes more difficult to find work to support his young family. He doesn’t speak of the future beyond what he needs to protect and feed his little ones. With generous support from the World Food Program, Mercy-USA is now delivering a nutritious monthly food basket to Alaa’s family and tens of thousands like them to ensure they survive to see an end to this devastating war.

Since December 1, 2019:

1,800,000 children in need of humanitarian aid.

4 out 5 displaced are women and children.

960,000 people newly displaced.

2.6 million people displaced in Idlib overall.
Anab, a 60 year old grandmother told us, “I live with seven grandchildren and that means more water usage in our household. Last year was the driest, and we would walk more than 4 miles in search of water and pasture. Fortunately, toward the end of the year, the rains came. We tried to save up as much as we could in our storage tanks and jerry cans but in no time it was gone. We then had to rely on the seasonal dam that still had water for part of the year. On average we would hike to the dam 5 to 6 times a day.”

“My grandchildren were missing a lot of school, their days started and ended at the dam just fetching water. At times, we had to carry our clothes and dishes to go wash them near the dam. It was easier for us, but because our village used the water from the dam to do everything, including watering the livestock, two of my grandchildren fell sick with fever and diarrhea. I think it was the water. We had to walk to the Mercy-USA health center for treatment.

The new well in my village means that my grandchildren will not miss school, they will be healthy and their thoughts will not just revolve around fetching water. This clean water well is transforming the lives of people in my community.”
Iftar baskets in nine countries feed vulnerable families

There’s no telling how severe the impact on vulnerable communities will be from the COVID-19 Pandemic by the time Ramadan arrives around April 23rd, but Mercy-USA will be offering Iftar food baskets to needy families in nine countries including, Syria, Lebanon, Bangladesh to Rohingya Refugees, Yemen, Albania, Bosnia, Kenya and Somalia.

In years past, in some countries we have provided hot meals to families, but in our planning we have decided that a nutritious food basket to feed the entire family for the month will be safer for all. They will be provided in a safe distribution process to eliminate the need for daily shopping or gathering in big groups as is customary.

It will be a difficult time for Muslims this year during Ramadan as it is normally a time of community and celebration; however, protecting the health of vulnerable populations will be a priority for all communities around the world.

WASH takes on a whole new meaning in the time of COVID-19

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, known as WASH in the world of humanitarian relief has been a priority in our work since its beginning. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this outreach more urgent. Protecting already health compromised refugees, internally displaced persons and the needy—all for whom everyday sanitation, access to clean water, and the ability to practice social distancing may be virtually impossible—our teams are doing everything they can to mitigate the spread of the disease.

Our first response includes the following:

• Protecting our field staff so that they are able to continue to deliver vital relief to vulnerable families as well as preventing the spread of the virus

• Providing pamphlets and posters translated into the local language that explain how the COVID-19 virus is spread and how families can protect themselves and their neighbors.

• Providing hand washing stations in IDP camps and at our health facilities

• Distribution of hygiene kits to vulnerable communities
**Where We Work • mercyusa.org**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Programs/Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>English and computer skills training for orphans Read to Succeed program for school-age children and teens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>Vocational and career training for orphans, at-risk teens and young adults Agriculture Education Center to aid farmers, and local communities with sustainable farming methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gaza Strip</td>
<td>With grant funding to UNRWA, support for a special school for blind and visually-impaired elementary school-aged children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Seasonal food aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Aiding farmers and local communities with sustainable farming methods. Also assisting farmers in forming cooperatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Seasonal food aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Syrian Refugee assistance in Wadi Khalid, Lebanon Palestinian Refugee Assistance in Beddawi and Nahr-Al-Bared Palestinian Refugee Camps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>With funding to implementing partner, The Citizens Foundation (TCF) building a secondary school in Sindh Province</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rohingya Refugees</td>
<td>Food baskets for Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>To date about 700 new or rehabilitated wells for access to clean drinking water throughout Somalia including emergency drought relief Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention Support for primary &amp; middle schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Monthly food baskets for over 200,000 vulnerable persons in northern Syria Winterization projects for vulnerable children and their families Shelter, blankets, mattresses, mats for displaced families Nutritional support and health services Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Seasonal food aid Support for refugees Support for Detroit area homeless shelters School backpack program for disadvantaged students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Food baskets for displaced persons in Yemen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contribution / Pledge Form**

- **One Time Donation $**
  - $10
  - $25
  - $50
  - $100
  - $250
  - **Other $**

- **Check**
  - [ ]

- **Credit Card (Fill out Credit Card Section)**
  - [ ]

- **Monthly Gift $**
  - I give my permission to Mercy-USA/Mercy-USA (Canada) to withdraw from my Credit Card the amount I have indicated above. I also understand that I may change or end a monthly donation agreement at any time with a written notice.

  **Credit Card Information (Charged in US Currency)**
  - Account No.
  - Expiration Date
  - Sec. Code

- **Signature**
- **Date**

**More ways to contribute!**

Many companies match their employees' donations; ask your employer if they have a “Matching Gift Program”. Automatic Giving Program: A gift of your choice can be automatically deducted monthly from your bank account. Please call us toll-free at 800-556-3729 for details on how you can make an easy and sustaining gift.

---

**Donate Online: mercyusa.org • Call to donate: 734-454-0011 • Toll-free: 800-556-3729**

Clip and Mail this Donation Form to Mercy-USA • 44450 Pinetree Dr. Ste. 201, Plymouth, Michigan 48170-3869 • US Federal Tax # 38-2846307
In Canada: PO Box 99055, RPO Heritage Green • Stoney Creek, ON L8J 2P7 • Charity Business #89458-5553-RR0001

---

**April 2020 • Mercy-USA for Aid and Development • mercyusa.org • 734-454-0011**