



SYRIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN URBAN AREAS OF JORDAN

Dusk in the Al Hussein neighborhood in Mafraq, Jordan.
The area has a high concentration of Syrian refugees due to
its proximity to the Syrian border and the Zaatari refugee camp.
(April 6, 2014. PHOTO: David Maurice Smith/Oculi.)

Not since the horror of World War II has the planet seen a forced migration the size of the Syrian diaspora that began three years ago when seemingly innocuous government protests escalated into a bloody civil war. The subsequent implosion has left 9 million Syrians displaced, 3 million of whom have fled across borders into neighboring countries as refugees.

The Kingdom of Jordan has taken in over 600,000 Syrians since the fighting began, struggling to house the unanticipated numbers of new arrivals in refugee camps whose resources have been pushed well beyond their limits. An estimated 80 percent of the Syrians in Jordan have hunkered down outside camps, fending for

themselves to avoid the poor conditions and detainment associated with camp life. The trade off: Outside the camps Syrians have less access to the aid on offer and are more susceptible to the unsavory forces attracted to those in positions of desperate need.

Wherever Syrians have found themselves, in addition to having lost their homes and their livelihoods, they are saddled with the emotional traumas inflicted by witnessing their communities destroyed and families and friends senselessly murdered. While proving challenging beyond all initial estimates, the difficulty of providing logistical solutions to their influx will pale in comparison to the greater long-term task of healing these deep wounds.

David Maurice Smith / Oculi



Soud Hazza was a sheep herder in Syria before fleeing to Jordan as a refugee when fighting found its way to his home village of Maqsar Hisan. Everything he left behind is confirmed to be destroyed and now as a refugee he is forced to sit idle, legally prohibited from working. (March 30, 2014. PHOTO: David Maurice Smith/Oculi.)



Inside the central mosque in Azraq, Jordan. For many of the male Syrian refugees now calling Azraq home the mosque has provided a needed feeling of connection and stability. (March 31, 2014. David Maurice Smith/Oculi.)



Faten Khdairi feeds the youngest of her six children in the temporary shelter that they have erected on a plot of land they rent in Azraq, Jordan. (April 4, 2014. David Maurice Smith/Oculi.)



An elderly Syrian woman, face marked with traditional tattoos looks out the window of a rented house in Azraq, Jordan. (March 29, 2014. David Maurice Smith/Oculi.)

Since arriving as a refugee in Jordan, six-year-old Imran Banikhaled has not been able to go to school and has taken a job working in a local shop. All the men in the family have found temporary jobs to help support the family. PHOTO: David Maurice Smith/Oculi.





A young Syrian girl pauses in the doorway of the empty shopfront that her family has rented on a busy street in Mafraq, Jordan. With over 600,000 refugees flooding into the country, many desperate Syrians are renting rooftops, storage containers, shopfronts, and sheds from Jordanians eager to benefit from the increasing rents associated with the growing demands. (April 6, 2014. PHOTO: David Maurice Smith/Oculi.)