

Fact Sheet: REFUGEES

1. Refugees are people who fled their countries of origin to escape persecution.
2. Today we see worldwide refugee levels at the highest ever recorded, with 1 in every 122 humans either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum.
3. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) reports that there are more than 50 million refugees in the world.
4. 51% of the world's refugee population are children under 18 years of age.
5. 53% of the refugees worldwide have come from three countries: Somalia, Afghanistan and Syria.
6. Syrian refugees have now exceeded 4 million persons, the world's single largest refugee crisis for almost 25 years. 76% of these refugees are women and children.
7. In Jordan, the situation for more than half a million Syrians living outside the country's refugee camps is increasingly dire. 86% of those in urban rural areas now living below the poverty line are taking such measures as reducing their food intake or sending family members--including children--out to beg.
8. In Lebanon, a recent study found that 70% of Syrian refugee households live far below the national poverty line.
9. Across the region, some 700,00 Syrian refugee children were out of school for the previous school year.

How can we help as individuals or congregations?

1. Provide funds to feed a refugee family for a month for \$200.00 See the Good Gifts catalog. Congregations are asked to support two families for a month, for \$400.00. Bring your donation to the Synod Assembly World Hunger table.
2. Lutheran World Relief needs health kits, school kits and blankets for refugees.

Go to LWR.org to find specifications for each of these articles. This could be an intergenerational project at your church. If you have accounts or insurance with Thrivent, apply for an Action Team card worth \$250.00 for supplies.

3. Plan a Refugee Sunday at your church. ELCA.LIRS.org will provide materials for the service. In the weeks ahead, continue to pray for the refugees and the organizations that administer care to refugees.

4. Donate any amount you are able to LIRS, World Hunger or the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The information under Facts has been taken from LIRS, UNHCR, ELCA World Hunger and Pew Research Center materials.