



## ON HER OWN:

How women forced to flee from Syria are shouldering increased responsibility as they struggle to survive



*“In Syria you can die one day from a bomb, but on this journey you die every single day”*

**Dana<sup>\*</sup>, a Syrian refugee travelling alone with two children**

\*name changed to protect her identity; see page 17 for Dana’s story

**#CARE4Refugees**

CARE works around the world to save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice. We put women and girls in the centre because we know that we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and opportunities.

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## INTRODUCTION

Syrian women sheltering in countries surrounding Syria, or undertaking the long and perilous journey to Europe with their children, are faced with intolerable choices. As they yearn for safety, dangers are ever-present; while exiled in camps, travelling, and anxiously waiting to cross borders.

Forced from their homes by fear of being caught up in conflict, of their children being conscripted by forces aligned with both the regime and the opposition, and under increasing pressure from religious fanaticism, women constantly face new and unforeseen challenges.

Of primary concern is the fact that women are increasingly acting as heads of households, with added responsibilities.

Their men have either headed abroad before them, or been killed in conflict. So, they shoulder the burden of keeping themselves and their children safe, trapped in a humanitarian challenge the world would rather ignore. They are invisible victims in one of the greatest displacements of people the world has seen.

Too often, these women feel neither empowered nor treated with greater respect as they take on additional responsibilities. Too many suffer in silence.

This report aims to provide a brief insight into the challenges and pressures that Syrian refugee women face. It also hints at the amazing resilience of many Syrian women refugees who are taking on additional roles, over and above those they already carry.

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*“Before the war I lived in a beautiful home with my husband and two children”*

Syrian refugee woman and former primary school teacher

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Amid turmoil and immense hardship refugee Syrian women are forging new roles; taking on challenges and responsibilities despite their own highly vulnerable predicaments. Overwhelmingly women say their new roles are unsettling. They feel more exposed to threats, harassment and even violence.

CARE International research in Jordan suggests the proportion of Syrian refugee households that are female-headed is on the increase.

- **Nearly 40 per cent<sup>1</sup> of Syrian households in Jordan are female-headed; a marked rise from a couple of years ago when it was a quarter.<sup>2</sup>**

This increase may be partly due to some households containing adult males reporting themselves as female-headed in order to improve their chances of receiving aid. What is clear even in these cases, however, is that women are taking on more responsibilities to safeguard the family.

Anecdotal findings from CARE International suggest female-headed households travelling on to Europe are a significant presence too. Syrian refugees in Greece estimate 50 per cent of their households to be female-headed. While this is a self-reported figure by the refugees, it is a further indication of the changing roles of women.<sup>3</sup>

At the same time, women and girls have to cope with increased risks. They feel vulnerable.

- **Nearly two thirds, 60 per cent, of Syrian refugee women hosted in Middle East countries feel insecure, fearing violence and harassment.<sup>4</sup>**
- **Nearly 10 per cent of Syrian girls in Jordan are forced into early marriage.<sup>5</sup>**

Access to information is vital for women if they are to make the right decisions about how to improve their desperate plight. Yet data currently available suggests women are disadvantaged when it comes to flows of information and staying in touch with the outside world.

Poverty among refugees is becoming more acute. Two years ago only 50 per cent of refugee households in Jordan were deemed to have enough food to eat, to be 'food secure'. This already alarming situation has now deteriorated even further, to only 15 per cent<sup>6</sup> of them knowing they have enough to eat. This year, four out of five Syrian refugees in Jordan were found to be living below the poverty line<sup>7</sup>. As conditions for refugees become more arduous, the pressures placed upon women are increasingly severe.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Six years into exile', report based on interviews with refugee households and host communities in Jordan, preliminary results published in [media release](#), June 20, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> 'Lives Unseen', CARE International 2014, p71

<sup>3</sup> CARE Rapid Gender Analysis, with a focus on WASH, Oraiokastro, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2016, p3 (internal report)

<sup>4</sup> 'Woman Alone', UNHCR 2014, p46

<sup>5</sup> 'Lives Unseen', CARE International 2014, p45

<sup>6</sup> [Food Security, Social Cohesion, Resilience & Migration in Jordan](#), Assessment Findings, REACH 2013-15, slide 6.

<sup>7</sup> 'Six years into exile', report based on interviews with refugee households and host communities in Jordan, preliminary results published in [media release](#), June 20, 2016



***“Why did I leave my country?  
We have no dignity, we are not  
treated like human beings”***

**Syrian refugee woman leaving a camp in Croatia**



## THE EMERGING ROLE OF WOMEN

Currently, there are around 4.8 million Syrian refugees in the Middle East region, including Turkey.<sup>8</sup> Of those, approximately 50 per cent are female. A growing body of research shows that many of these women are taking on new roles and responsibilities, participating in decision-making on income and expenses, assuming responsibilities outside the home, and taking on the role of head of household.

The trials and challenges women face are considerable. Fear and anxiety is ever-present: worries about getting by each day, worries about the well-being of loved ones, and worries about staying safe. While women are responding with great strength and resourcefulness, this increase in responsibility is not generally welcomed.

Most women say they feel far more vulnerable to harassment, abuse and violence. Only a small percentage of them feel these changes to be empowering and positive;<sup>9</sup> most, 95 per cent, indicate this change of role is negative. They say the stress of their predicament is exacerbated by even more responsibilities.

**Indications are that the percentage of Syrian female-headed households in Jordan is rising; in the past couple of years, there has been a rise from one in four households being headed by a woman to more than a third, from 25 per cent<sup>10</sup> to 39 per cent.<sup>11</sup>**

More women are responsible for livelihoods. With men struggling to find work, women are turning to generating an income and ensuring that the family's basic needs are met. This is while they continue to care for children, and others in need.

As more refugees undertake the dangerous journey to Europe, CARE's observations are that women are increasingly taking the family lead too. It may be that their partner has gone ahead and they will join him, or that male family members have disappeared, or been killed, in the conflict.

A recent CARE survey found that refugees, overwhelmingly from Syria, travelling through Greece estimated female-headed households to be around 50 per cent of those seeking to build new lives.<sup>12</sup> While this figure is self-reported, and therefore to be treated with caution, it is indicative of a perception among refugees that women's roles are changing.

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<sup>8</sup> UNHCR, regional overview, June 1, 2016

<sup>9</sup> 'Woman Alone', UNHCR 2014, p45

<sup>10</sup> 'Lives Unseen', CARE International, 2014, p71

<sup>11</sup> 'Six years into exile', report based on interviews with refugee households and host communities in Jordan, preliminary results published in [media release](#), June 20, 2016.

<sup>12</sup> CARE Rapid Gender Analysis, with a focus on WASH, Oraiokastro, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2016, p3 (internal report)





*"I have been on the road for five months, it's unbearably hard especially with a small baby"*

Batoul, aged 18, from Syria



## Batoul, pictured left, from Syria, interviewed in Presevo refugee camp, Serbia

Before February I had hardly left my house, let alone the small town in Syria where I come from. But now I've been on the road for five months, having travelled thousands of kilometres by bus, boat and on foot.

I'm trying to reach Germany where my husband and nine-year-old brother have gone. I was seven months pregnant when they left and it was too dangerous for me to travel. He hasn't met his first child yet.

These months have been unbearably hard, especially with a small baby.

When I finally managed to cross into Turkey, I'd been forced to hand over my only bag. It was very dark and raining hard when I arrived. The river had got so high and it was so slippery, I fell and my baby and I were literally drowning in the mud. I screamed and screamed but the other refugees were hurrying past and no-one heard me. I thought we were going to die but suddenly a hand grabbed me and pulled us out of the mud. It was a young Syrian man. I owe him my life and my baby's life.

In Turkey I stayed for just one day before I was able to move on to Greece but, there, I was forced to stay in a camp for three months. We lived only on lentil soup for all of that time. One night a fire broke out in the camp and luckily I was able to escape through hole in the fence. My baby had a 40 degree fever.

A group of about 200 of us from Syria walked together for six days through woods to reach the border with Macedonia. We ran out of food after three days but by that stage I wasn't even thinking of food.

I finally found a smuggler who had a van and offered to drive me and 53 other people to Serbia. The police stopped us, arrested the smuggler, and brought us all to this camp.

The first thing I want to do when I get to Germany is to study English and German. I will put my son in a nursery and find a job so I can help my husband create a good life for our family. My husband is traditional but he will support this. Women are strong and we have a new role to play.

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*40% of those arriving in the Balkans  
are women and children who are  
highly vulnerable*

UN Women January 2016



## ON THE MOVE

The United Nations reports that increasing numbers of women and children were arriving in the Balkans last year.<sup>13</sup> More than 40 per cent were said to be women and children. These women and children were reported to have less money, fewer resources and less information about their journey than men. They were highly vulnerable.

CARE International also has anecdotal evidence from Greece that women are especially vulnerable. Female-headed households with several children, especially those with pregnant mothers, suffer a lack of access to medical support. The burden on them can be immense, particularly if they have to stand in lengthy food and water queues, sometimes in the extremes of heat, cold or rain. It can even be a struggle for a mother to find somewhere to place her baby down for rest.

A CARE survey in Greece found Syrian refugees speaking of some mothers travelling on their own have had to resort to forming sexual relations in order to travel under the protection of a man, in the hope of keeping them and their children safe.<sup>14</sup> Last year, a United Nations field assessment for refugee women and girls in Greece and Macedonia reported that “many refugee and migrant women and girls have already been exposed to various forms of sexual and gender-based violence, either in their country of origin, first asylum or along the journey to and in Europe. Some of the women interviewed by the mission described being forced to engage in transactional sex to ‘pay for’ travel documents or their journey.”<sup>15</sup>

Understandably, psychological trauma is a major concern among all refugees. The trauma of escaping a conflict is then compounded each day by the struggle to survive, be it in temporary refugee accommodation in countries surrounding Syria or making the hazardous journey on to Europe. Refugees say the endless waiting and the removal of dignity and choice leads to a prevailing sense of hopelessness.<sup>16</sup>

Women have to cope with a lack of privacy and a lack of segregation in toilet and showering facilities in camps. They need more menstrual products and underwear. Washing clothing can be problematic too, especially given the lack of private areas in which to dry underwear. Overall, women lack places they can retreat to in order to overcome exhaustion, to mitigate their sense of feeling overwhelmed, and to relax. Such spaces could also offer opportunities for targeted help and information.

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<sup>13</sup> *Gender Assessment of The Refugee & Migration Crisis in Serbia and FYR Macedonia*, UN Women, Jan 2016, p13

<sup>14</sup> CARE Rapid Gender Analysis, with a focus on WASH, Oraiokastro, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2016, p4 (internal report)

<sup>15</sup> UNFPA, Jan 20, 2016, <http://www.unfpa.org/press/report-warns-refugee-women-move-europe-are-risk-sexual-and-gender-based-violence>

<sup>16</sup> CARE Rapid Gender Analysis, with a focus on WASH, Oraiokastro, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2016, p5 (internal report)

*As more Syrian refugees sink into poverty, women suffer the most*





## THE POVERTY TRAP

Firm evidence exists of refugee poverty in countries surrounding Syria. As more Syrian refugees sink into poverty, women suffer most. They are at the sharp end of a debt and housing crisis. Nearly 10 per cent of households headed by women refugees in Jordan face the immediate threat of eviction. A third of them are in debt with their landlord.<sup>17</sup>

When women are asked about how they sank into debt, they list rising prices of all goods, a lack of water and unemployment as the main causes.<sup>18</sup>

- **Four in five Syrian refugees in Jordan now live below the poverty line, an increase from 2015.**<sup>19</sup>
- **Food is harder to find. Two years ago more than 50 per cent of the refugee households in Jordan were deemed to be 'food secure'; this had decreased to 15 per cent by 2015.**<sup>20</sup>

With poverty comes debt – and the longer the displacement, the higher the amount of debt. In Jordan, more than two-thirds, 67 per cent, of refugee families owe money. On average, they are in the red by more than US \$800. This includes unpaid rent.<sup>21</sup> Housing is a major concern for refugee families; eight out of 10 families worry about it.<sup>22</sup>

Rising poverty can be set amid the backdrop of a rapid decline in paid work for Syrian refugees in Jordan. Only 43 per cent of refugees surveyed earlier this year reported their main source of income as paid work, a dramatic decrease from 74 per cent the year before.<sup>23</sup> This was despite a short-term 'fee waiver' introduced by the Jordanian government, allowing Syrians with appropriate registration to be exempt from work permit application fees.

We know too that in southern Syria, the monthly income of female-headed households can be up to one third lower.<sup>24</sup> It is likely that similar patterns exist in female-headed refugee households outside Syria. Avoiding poverty, especially if you are a woman heading a household, is extremely tough.

<sup>17</sup> 'Lives Unseen', CARE International 2014, p29

<sup>18</sup> Food Security, Social Cohesion, Resilience & Migration in Jordan, Assessment Findings, REACH 2013-15, slide 11

<sup>19</sup> CARE International study, 20 June, 2016, report based on interviews with refugee households and host communities in Jordan, preliminary results published in [media release](#), June 20, 2016.

<sup>20</sup> Food Security, Social Cohesion, Resilience & Migration in Jordan, Assessment Findings, REACH 2013-15, slide 6

<sup>21</sup> 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan Mid-Year Report June 2016, p4

<sup>22</sup> CARE International study, 20 June, 2016, report based on interviews with refugee households and host communities in Jordan, preliminary results published in [media release](#), June 20, 2016.

<sup>23</sup> CARE International study, 20 June, 2016, report based on interviews with refugee households and host communities in Jordan, preliminary results published in [media release](#), June 20, 2016.

<sup>24</sup> 'Women, Work & War', CARE International 2016, p5



*Even in the most dire  
circumstances, Syrian women  
show remarkable resilience*



## COPING

Running up debts is one way refugees cope. Nearly two-thirds, 61 per cent, of refugee households in Jordan say their three most common means of dealing with poverty are: borrowing money from family, friends, and/or neighbours (49 per cent); taking out a loan (20 per cent); and selling personal belongings.<sup>25</sup> Overall, 85 per cent of female-headed households (and 88 per cent of male-headed households) say they have borrowed money.<sup>26</sup>

But even in these most dire situations, Syrian women are showing remarkable resilience as they expand their role in families and communities. In Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, some are setting up small-scale businesses to compensate for the absence of the traditional, male breadwinner or his inability to work.

In refugee contexts, one of the factors encouraging poverty-stricken women into the workplace is women and children are less likely than men to be asked for proof of residency or work permits, and therefore can sometimes find it easier to find paid work.

Women have demonstrated the need to have income-generating activities that they can do from home,<sup>27</sup> such as sewing, cooking, or small-scale vegetable or meat/dairy production. In general, few women work outside the house; and those who do report working in hairdresser salons, sewing shops, or in domestic work. Those with teaching qualifications provide private lessons, usually from home. The informal economy, clothing or accessory shops, is where some women are working and earning.

Women say their preference to work from home is not only for cultural reasons. It is often difficult for them to find someone to take care of their children or injured/sick husbands while working away from home.

Women have also formed groups to support with the delivery of aid, such as establishing informal community centres for women and children. One example is the 'Melissa' women's centre in Athens, which offers a safe space for refugee women to socialise, learn languages and gain vocational training. All too often, governments and UN agencies have failed to support those efforts.<sup>28</sup> Host countries often make it difficult for Syrian refugee women to legally register their own civil society organisations. This makes it harder for them to access funding for their work. As a consequence, Syrian activists work informally, networking one-on-one or via social media.

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<sup>25</sup> *Food Security, Social Cohesion, Resilience & Migration in Jordan*, Assessment Findings, REACH 2013-15, slide 14

<sup>26</sup> *'Lives Unseen'*, CARE International, 2014, p52

<sup>27</sup> *'Lives Unseen'*, CARE International, 2014, p52

<sup>28</sup> *'EU-Turkey Agreement Failing Refugee Women and Girls'*, Women's Refugee Commission, 2016

## STAYING SAFE

As refugees, women face risks of sexual harassment, exploitation and even violence. While precise data on these highly sensitive issues is difficult to obtain, 60 per cent of refugee women report feeling insecure and fearing violence and harassment.<sup>29</sup> **The United Nations says Syrian refugee women and girls are continually at risk of assault, or worse: amid the conflict, in areas under control of armed groups, at check-points and border crossings, and in detention facilities.**<sup>30</sup> There are reports of systematic sexual assault and the use of rape as a weapon of war inside Syria;<sup>31</sup> cases of rape have been reported in refugee camps;<sup>32</sup> domestic violence and sexual exploitation are widely reported in the sprawling refugee camps and the cramped living conditions in host communities.

Refugees say prejudice from host communities creates an environment where sexual harassment and exploitation is considered acceptable. There are reports of landlords offering free accommodation and money in exchange for sexual favours.<sup>33</sup> Surveys undertaken in countries neighbouring Syria found some women were harassed by men as they sought assistance from local organisations. Some attributed this to their being women on their own. They felt men in positions of authority would make them feel as though they had to give something in return for services.<sup>34</sup>

The workplace, when jobs are found, can be very challenging too. Women may experience abuse on the way to work.<sup>35</sup> It is why many of them resort to informal, income-generating work that can be done from home in relative safety.<sup>36</sup>

Among refugees there is a serious risk of an increase in domestic violence as a result of family conflict over women's roles and the changing balance of power between the sexes.<sup>37</sup> Anecdotally, CARE has found that young Syrian refugee men in Greece believe there is violence within families as a direct result of changing gender roles. One young man said: "Women feel the power of freedom ... and they start behaving in a way that is disloyal to religious law, and to the order of men."<sup>38</sup>

Exploitation can begin within the family. Child marriage is known to increase during conflicts and humanitarian crises.<sup>39</sup> Sample CARE International data for 2014 indicates that in Jordan, nine per cent of Syrian refugee girls, aged between 14 and 17, were married;<sup>40</sup> while UNICEF reports that the percentage of the total registered Syrian marriages which involved a girl aged 15-17 rose to just under 32% in the first quarter of 2014.<sup>41</sup> This is a sensitive topic among communities, with some families viewing early marriage for their daughters as a protective measure, or as a coping mechanism in the face of poverty.<sup>42</sup> However, women do speak of firmly rebuking requests for marriage with their underage daughters.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>29</sup> 'Woman Alone', UNHCR 2014, p5

<sup>30</sup> UN News Centre, May 7, 2015, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50794#.V7V1bFccIfE>

<sup>31</sup> The Guardian, July 25, 2013, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jul/25/rape-violence-syria-women-refugee-camp>

<sup>32</sup> Jordan Times, April 20, 2016, <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/syrian-refugee-victims-rape-suffer-silence-over-legal-social-fears>

<sup>33</sup> 'Woman Alone', UNHCR 2014, p21

<sup>34</sup> 'Woman Alone', UNHCR 2014, p50

<sup>35</sup> 'Women, Work & War', CARE International 2016, p5

<sup>36</sup> 'Women, Work & War', CARE International 2016, p5

<sup>37</sup> 'Women, Work & War', CARE International 2016, p5

<sup>38</sup> CARE Rapid Gender Analysis, with a focus on WASH, Oraiokastro, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2016, p3 (internal report)

<sup>39</sup> 'To Protect Her Honour', CARE International 2015, p2

<sup>40</sup> 'Lives Unseen', CARE International 2014, p45

<sup>41</sup> 'To Protect Her Honour', CARE International 2015, p7

<sup>42</sup> 'To Protect Her Honour', CARE International 2015, pp12-13

<sup>43</sup> 'Woman Alone', UNHCR 2014, p42



## STAYING IN TOUCH

Access to up-to-date and accurate information enables refugees to make better-informed decisions about their situation and their options. Yet there is evidence that women are disadvantaged in terms of access to information and means of communication.

United Nations research in the Balkans found most men have mobile phones but only some women are in possession of one.<sup>44</sup> The same report also found women, in particular, faced language barriers.

Staying in touch with family and friends is also a key means by which refugees can manage their anxieties and remain informed about how others are faring. Word-of-mouth remains a potent form of communication. This is how many receive information about sources of assistance, changes of migration laws and policies, and what is happening inside Syria.

Assessments carried out by CARE in Azraq refugee camp in Jordan showed that social media platforms are the most often used media source. However, the survey found 69 per cent of men reported owning a smart phone while only 51 per cent of women do.<sup>45</sup> **While a majority of households in the camp have access to smart phones and are able to access the internet, women are more reliant on using a man's smart phone rather than possessing one themselves. This potentially reduces their access to information.**

As a refugee, remaining connected poses problems too. Refugees say a lack of electricity where they live restricts their ability to use information technology as does their inability to be able to afford items such as computers.<sup>46</sup>

We can place this communication divide in a wider context of overall literacy; in the same refugee camp, 87 per cent of men are literate compared with 75 per cent of women.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Gender Assessment of the Refugee & Migration Crisis in Serbia and FYR Macedonia, UN Women, 2016, p34

<sup>45</sup> Mass Communications in Azraq Refugee Camp, Jordan: Assessment Report December 2015, UNHCR/REACH, p17

<sup>46</sup> Mass Communications in Azraq Refugee Camp, Jordan: Assessment Report December 2015, p5

<sup>47</sup> Mass Communications in Azraq Refugee Camp, Jordan: Assessment Report December 2015, p4



*“Now we are waiting to hear when we will be allowed to cross the border and join my daughter”*

Dana, who sent her daughter ahead to Austria to keep her from danger



## Dana\* from Syria, interviewed in Belgrade, Serbia:

In Syria you can die one day from a bomb, but on this journey you die every single day.

I'm from Al Bab, in Syria. Before the war, we were really happy. I lived in a beautiful home with my husband and two children.

We had a good life, a beautiful house, money, and good jobs and schooling. I worked as a school teacher and my husband had a good position in the army. After the revolution began, my youngest son was born. We named him, Salam, which means peace.

But after the revolution everything changed.

Extremists came to our area about one year after the war started. One day, my husband just disappeared. We assume he was kidnapped. We've not heard any news about him since.

Shortly after that, I was beaten in the marketplace after I'd lifted up my veil for a second because I couldn't properly see a children's toy I wanted to buy. I was so frightened for my nine-year-old daughter's safety that I sent her to Vienna with her aunt. I became more and more afraid.

When we saw decapitated bodies in the street I knew I had to leave too.


We left Syria in April in the middle of the night on foot. If the army or other armed groups had caught us, we would have been killed. We walked 10 hours to the Turkish border. I had to carry Salam, my two-year-old, all the way. His legs are too little to walk so far. It was a long, hard, exhausting journey, and I knew this was only the beginning...

We paid smugglers to take us to Greece. Once we reached Izmir, Turkey, we took a dingy to Greece. We reached a refugee camp in Chios, where we stayed for two months waiting for papers allowing us to travel to Athens. After that we tried seven times to cross in to Macedonia and seven times we were arrested and sent back by the police. One of the times we got lost in the forest for four days without food or water.

Now we're waiting to hear when we will be allowed to cross into Hungary. And from there we will move on to Austria to join my daughter. When she left I thought that one day she would come back when things got better, but nothing has got better, things have only got worse.

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*\*Name changed to protect her identity*

A woman wearing a teal hijab and a dark jacket is sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. She is looking down at a smartphone in her hands. A brown paper bag is slung over her shoulder. In the background, another woman is walking away, carrying a large purple patterned cloth or blanket. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The background shows a building with windows and a paved area.

***Open up safe and legal routes for people to flee violence and persecution, protect women refugees from violence, and support them to access education and livelihoods.***



## RECOMMENDATIONS

CARE International urges governments and global institutions to address the immense problems of poverty, violence and exploitation facing Syrian refugee women by:

- Committing to provide additional **safe and legal routes to claim asylum**, with a particular focus on expanding opportunities for family reunification, which are critical for Syrian women and girls left behind in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.
- **Ensuring the participation of refugee women's organisations and activists** in the design, implementation and monitoring of the Global Compact for Refugees and other commitments made at the Global Summits in September.
- **Pledging funding for systematic and coherent steps to address gender equality**, women's leadership and participation, gender-based violence prevention and response, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, in humanitarian responses to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Additional recommendations which will also have a positive impact on the situation of Syrian refugee women and families include:

- **Wealthy states committing to accept their fair share of refugees**, thereby contributing to the collective resettlement of at least 10% of all refugees globally.
  - **All states allocating increased needs-based funding to support local communities** and refugees in host countries in the global south, with specific attention to social cohesion and livelihoods, and specific steps to address the legal status of refugees that obstructs their access to work permits and services.
  - **All states committing to take action on the root causes of displacement**, through steps to promote accountability for International Humanitarian Law, resolve conflicts in Syria and elsewhere, as well as to resource implementation of the 2015 global goals on sustainable development and on climate change adaptation.
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## CARE INTERNATIONAL'S ACTIONS

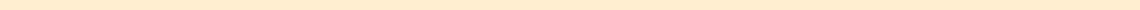
CARE is providing life-saving services to Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, Greece, the Balkans and inside Syria itself, including:

- food
- shelter
- safe water supplies
- hygiene kits including dignity kits for women
- prevention of violence against women
- medical assistance
- psychosocial support
- cash assistance (for meeting basic needs including rent)
- livelihoods training and advice
- access to information services

Specifically in Greece and the Balkans, in addition to providing food, water and hygiene kits, and access to clothing, shelter and sanitation facilities, we have worked with partners to set up:

- free internet and telephone charging services
  - access to support services (legal advice, psychosocial support, information provision)
  - a sexual and gender-based violence referral system
  - mothers' groups for vulnerable first-time mothers (psychosocial support, training on pregnancy risks and nutrition)
  - baby spaces with warm water for bathing
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**#CARE4Refugees**

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