



Ko te Kete o Operation Refugee

RESOURCES FOR THE
CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE CHALLENGE

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2021

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Operation Refugee 2021

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For over 75 years, Christian World Service has been taking action against the poverty that denies people food, water and justice. Inspired by our faith in the God of Life, we partner with local organisations, supporting communities to work together to sustain life, respond when disaster strikes and enhance the dignity of all people. CWS first began sending funds to assist Palestinian refugees in 1949. Out of this work, the local churches and refugees formed the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees. For much of this time, CWS has contributed to their programmes across the region. Operation Refugee is raising funds for emergency food, education and healthcare for Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

**"THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING TO HELP US
SERVE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED US,"**

**SYLVIA HADDAD, DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE TO
PALESTINIAN REFUGEES LEBANON**

Photo credits: ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey, DSPR Jordan,
DSPR Lebanon



WELCOME ABOARD

Thank you for joining this year's Operation Refugee. We are grateful for your willingness to stand with refugees and displaced people in these challenging times. Whether you organise a banquet or walk, live on refugee rations, or count your steps, the money you raise will contribute to their safety and well-being. I encourage you to work hard on this challenge.

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees is doing tremendous work in Jordan and Lebanon, bringing refugees together to support each other in these difficult times. The more money you raise the more we can help them manage food shortages, the trauma they carry, and the lack of opportunity they face.

At 17 Assef is very much aware of the needs of other refugees. In Jordan's Al Husn Refugee Camp, he is making friends with newer refugees as well as sharing his knowledge and skills. What I like about his story is that it shows refugees helping each other deal with the many challenges of everyday life. Building robotics gives Assef and his friends some fun and a way to escape the economic poverty that surrounds them.

Most refugees live in the countries next door to their homeland. New arrivals may settle with relatives or complete strangers even if it means considerable discomfort. Connecting with organisations like the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees with its decades of experience can make the life of a displaced person much easier.

Last year we were surprised by how many people took up the challenge of organising a banquet

Thank you for your compassion and care. I do hope you enjoy the challenge.

Pauline McKay

Pauline McKay
National Director

P.S. I am retiring at the end of July but I will keep following your progress on cwsoperationrefugee.nz



or a feast rather than living on refugee rations. After weeks of social isolation under lockdown, supporters enjoyed the opportunity to get together. This year we are recommending it as a great way to raise funds and awareness on the situation facing refugees in the countries closest to the conflict or arriving in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Whether you eat, walk or share in a banquet it is great to have you on board.

Eric

Eric Park
Relationships Coordinator

P.S. Call me on 022 377 606 or email eric.park@cws.org.nz if you want to talk about Operation Refugee



"YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT"

JESUS, MATTHEW 14:16

Why join Operation Refugee?

With the pandemic life has grown harder for refugees wherever they are. The daily struggle for food, healthcare and education has become more difficult, especially in Lebanon where the economy has been crumbling. Sadly, the virus has not stopped the violence, conflict and persecution that propel people from their homes. The United Nations reports there were 82.4 million displaced people of which 26.4 million are refugees last year.

We cannot help every refugee, but we can make a real difference for some in 2021. By joining Operation Refugee you will be raising funds so Syrian and Palestinian refugees have food, access to medical care and a chance to learn. It is a way to give practical help to refugees and share your hope for a kinder, more just world.



WHAT IS CWS OPERATION REFUGEE?

Operation Refugee 2021 runs from June 20 (World Refugee Day) to October 24 (World Development Information Day).

Operation Refugee gives you a chance to stand with refugees. You can take part safely from home or do something as a church, school, work colleagues or other group. There are two streams: Food for Life and Walk the Talk. Whatever challenge you choose, you will be asking friends, family and colleagues to support you. Funds raised will give refugees living in Jordan and Lebanon the chance to access food, healthcare and education.

FOOD FOR LIFE focuses on eating. You can eat food similar to an emergency food parcel in Jordan for 2 or 5 days or spend \$32, equivalent to a cash voucher in Lebanon and get sponsors.

Or you can raise funds by organising a Banquet or Feast, perhaps with a speaker who was once a refugee or some entertainment. Last year this was a popular way to raise funds after lockdown. Check out the separate **Food for Life** booklet to find out what the Food Box contains, suggestions about organising a banquet or a feast and lots of great recipes.

WALK THE TALK is a walking challenge. Refugees who have fled their homes often have to walk a long way. Many Rohingya refugees made the perilous 60 km to Bangladesh. Stand in their shoes. Set a goal for yourself. Choose the number of steps or kilometres you want to walk over 5 days. By using FitBit, Strava, MapMyFitness or manually updating your fundraising page, you can track your progress toward your goal.

Or organise a community walk. For the last two years the Port Hills Uniting Parish in Christchurch has walked from New Brighton to Sumner in November. Last year they had fun raising \$820 for Operation Refugee. The walk is now a significant social event in their calendar.

5 TIPS FOR THE CHALLENGE

1. Make your effort count. Set a high goal. Last year one person raised over \$1,100 and a team from Chartwell Cooperating Parish raised more than \$6,400. If you are new to the challenge start with \$500, you can always increase it later.
2. Recruit some friends to join you and make a team. Choose a crazy name, print a t-shirt and organise a weekly check in so you can keep each other on task.
3. Tell everybody what you are doing and why it is so important to show their support for refugees by getting

behind you. Make it manageable. Ask a close friend or family member to give you a down payment. Once you get your first donation, ask the next person to match it. Ask two friends for the equivalent of a dinner out and two colleagues for lunch money. You are on your way.

4. A few days before you start the challenge, hit the social media. Use your artistic abilities to tell your story. Share Operation Refugee posts that you think will attract support. Post pictures of yourself or the team enjoying your rations, or doing the walk, even a bike ride – whatever works for you.
5. When the challenge is over send out a big thank you to your fan base and give them one last chance to donate. Let CWS know what you learned from the challenge and what we could do better. Keep in touch so you find out how much we raised together and what is happening for refugees.

WHO BENEFITS FROM OPERATION REFUGEE?

We all do. Refugees can receive food, medical care and education in ways that respect their dignity and strengthen community. We know that we are giving people what they want and need in ways that respect their dignity. It is a matter of faith and an obligation under international law.

Your support last year meant refugees of all ages could learn, for some online or between lockdowns. Mothers could support their family by earning extra income, through emergency food or cash payments, and by getting professional attention during free medical days.

In 1949, Palestinian Christians set up the first committees of what became the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees to support refugees of all religions. Refugees know they can find help at the DSPR centres and through their programmes. Their education services are highly regarded and they promote Palestinian cultural traditions. In Jordan and Lebanon, DSPR has been able to draw on its strong local networks to help refugees from Syria since they first arrived in 2011. In Jordan, for example medical staff donate their time and other resources each time DSPR organises a free medical day in the camps.

Operation Refugee will give DSPR the support it needs to help refugees face the many challenges ahead. Many want to go home but it is not safe to return to Syria. Most are deeply in debt and live in cramped informal settlements. Over half the refugees are under the age of 18. Last year's explosion at Beirut's port was the final straw - the UN says 9 out of 10 Syrian refugees in Lebanon are living in extreme poverty. DSPR provides emergency food parcels and cash vouchers, healthcare, education programmes, fun days for children and emotional support. The money you raise will help them survive and give them a better chance for the future.



WHAT THE MONEY RAISED WILL DO

1.



Provide food rations and vouchers so families can supplement what they get from the United Nations with what they most need.

2.



Provide free medical days in Jordan's refugee camps with volunteer medical staff from Jordan's hospitals.

3.



Provide forums so children can play, learn and have fun away from the often bleak reality of their daily lives.

4.



Provide tuition, training and support for young students in Lebanon. DSPR organises students to return to Syria to sit senior exams in Arabic rather than in French or English as in Lebanese schools. They are helping others attend university and run preschools.

\$30

will pay for one child to attend a children's forum, a regular chance to enjoy music, play games, make crafts, share food and have fun with others.

\$77

will pay for one good quality food parcel in Jordan or cash vouchers in Lebanon to feed a family of 6 for a fortnight.

\$350

will enable one student to attend classes on the Syrian curriculum in Lebanon and travel to Syria to sit their final exams.

\$515

will pay for one woman to attend a 15 day Start your Own Business Course.

\$575

will pay for tutorial classes for a refugee student for one year.

\$4,224

will pay for a free medical day in a refugee camp in Jordan attended by more than 500 people.



FILIPPO GRANDI, THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

"BEHIND EACH NUMBER IS A PERSON FORCED FROM THEIR HOME AND A STORY OF DISPLACEMENT, DISPOSSESSION AND SUFFERING. THEY MERIT OUR ATTENTION AND SUPPORT NOT JUST WITH HUMANITARIAN AID, BUT IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PLIGHT."

ASSEF'S STORY



Assef in Jordan (above) and Nour in Lebanon (below) are both refugees. Nour fled Syria with her mother. You can read her story on the Operation Refugee website.

In Jordan, former refugees are helping newer refugees settle and create new lives. Young refugees like Assef are leading the way.

Like refugees everywhere, he wants to make his own way in a world where everyone is accepted and has a place.

Assef has spent his whole life in the Al Husn Refugee Camp, set up by the United Nations north of Amman in 1968. His parents fled their home in Beersheba, Palestine during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. They cannot return without a robust peace agreement with Israel.

Ten years ago, the first refugees from Syria began to arrive at Al Husn, a cramped cluster of small homes often built on top of each other and home to around 35,000 refugees. Unemployment is the highest across the UN's 13 camps in Jordan. The hot, dusty streets are busy even with Covid.

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees Jordan runs the Husn Centre which is open to all refugees in the camp. Staff like Assef's mother warmly welcome the new arrivals and find ways to get them the support they need. Thankfully they have successfully integrated around 2,000 Syrian refugees into camp life.

Assef first became involved with the Centre when he was eight years old. He says he grew up at the Children's Forums, a regular opportunity to learn crafts, play sports and have fun. Assef says he became more confident and learned how to talk to others at the Forums. These skills have made the seventeen year old the young leader he is today.

Now he can be found concentrating in front of a computer or playing with a small machine, surrounded by a group of young people. He loves to make robots and writing the codes that make small trucks turn or flip by themselves.

"After nine years participating in DSPR activities and exhibitions, I have become more knowledgeable about the robot industry. I have participated in robot contests on a regional level and am looking forward to continuing my university studies in the field that I adore.

"In the meantime, I am still loyal and committed to the place that gave me all the success: DSPR. I help the team there with all activities related to children and through youth forums that are conducted there to give training courses on smart phone programming, how to best utilise mobile applications, robots manufacturing, and on IT."

"I hope one day to work at NASA," says Assef.

TOP FUNDRAISING TIP

Show your friends and family just how committed you are by taking a selfie or making a video. Hold up a piece of paper on which you have written one word that sums up why you are taking part or appeal for support in less than a minute. Post it on Facebook to kick off your fundraising campaign.

www.facebook.com/operationrefugee
#operationrefugee #walkthetalk



OPERATION REFUGEE GETTING READY

Operation Refugee 2021 runs from June 20 (World Refugee Day) to October 24 (World Development Information Day). Choose a time that suits you and your supporters. If you want others to work with you, make sure there is plenty of time to get them on board. Decide whether you want to do a food or walking challenge.

Don't make it too easy. Push yourself.

TIMELINE

1. Set up your fundraising page. It's easy. Go to: <https://cwsoperationrefugee.nz/> and select Sign Up on the right hand side. Have a photo ready so you can personalise your fundraising. Write your own story and give your friends a reason to support you. Make a goal - \$500 is a good place to start.
2. Decide on your challenge: **Food for Life** (live on rations for 5 days or host organise a banquet with a little or a lot of food), **Walk the Talk** (walk a set distance to reflect how far refugees may walk to reach a safe place). Create your own challenge!
3. Set up or join a team: Think about who you can ask to join you. It's much easier to do the challenge as a team. Challenge a friend to join you so you can encourage each other. If you are organising a banquet, find others at school, or your church or even at work. See the separate Food for Life booklet for some more tips.
4. Ask people to sponsor you or buy tickets for the banquet. We want you to feel good about what you are doing – so ask everyone to support you. Share your fundraising link as often as you can, starting with those people closest to you. Don't give up – it usually takes three emails or messages to get people to donate. Write and share posts so people have to think about refugees and find out why you want to help. Thank everybody who gets behind your challenge.
5. Share your experience. Let people know how Operation Refugee is going and keep them updated on your progress! An easy way to do this is via social media. Don't forget to tag us @operation_refugee #operationrefugee
6. Complete the challenge. Good luck for your fundraiser!

7. Bank your funds. Any donations that you have received via your fundraising page will automatically be banked and part of your final fundraising tally. If you have received any donations offline then please bank them into CWS account 06 0801 03250 3200 and email Jordyn at cws@cws.org.nz with details of each total donation, the total and date it was banked and name and address details for tax receipts to be issued. If it helps, ask Jordyn to send you a spreadsheet to fill out. Once a week these offline donations will be added to your fundraising page.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I SLIP UP?

If you are finding the challenge hardgoing reach out on Facebook to the Operation Refugee group or talk to Eric. We want everyone to succeed. However, if you do eat the wrong food or don't walk the required number of steps, make a penalty donation of at least \$20 towards your fundraising total.

WHAT IF I'M UNDER 18?

Make sure your family knows what you are up to and ask them to join you or get behind your fundraising efforts. Permission slips can be downloaded from the website. They might like to share your fundraising page with friends or organise a donation bucket for visitors. You can do Operation Refugee Lite for two days instead of five.

HOW MUCH MONEY AM I EXPECTED TO RAISE?

It is over to you. Some people find it harder to ask for donations than others do – we understand. It will be easier to ask if you think of the refugees who need help. This is a challenge so do your best.

WHAT IF I CAN'T EAT ONE OF THE RATIONS PROVIDED OR I'M VEGETARIAN OR VEGAN?

You can add an additional item of your choice – an extra serving of rice, lentils or kidney beans. You could swap or trade something with a friend.

OPERATION REFUGEE DOING IT TOGETHER

START A TEAM

Whether you are doing the eating challenge or walking challenge, it's much easier in a team. There is no better motivator for Operation Refugee than the moral support of your nearest and dearest, and you will really help pick each other up on those low days. So get your friends and family involved!

Here are our top team tips.

FINDING TEAMMATES

Encourage your workmates, or friends from your university or sports team to take part with you so you can share your midnight hunger cravings and lament your caffeine withdrawals. Email or message your friends inviting them to join your team and explain why you'd like them to join the best team ever (that's yours!).

Taking part in Operation Refugee can bring your family or household closer together. Shared conversations around a refugee meal will take your mind off what you are eating. Walking or biking together is a great way to exercise and reach your distance targets. Taking part with your relatives, flatmates or family is a fantastic and fulfilling experience.

OPERATION REFUGEE COOK-OFFS!

Share meals and recipes and take it in turns to host meals throughout the week. Sharing your experience with your team will give you lots of support on those long evenings and stop you staring longingly at your fridge! It will also add some variety and make the challenge more sociable by taking it in turns to cook.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR YOUR TEAM

In addition to asking for sponsorship from your friends and family, why not organise fundraising activities together?

Think of a few activities that you and your friends would enjoy – be it a Pop-up Banquet, guess the rice grains in the jar, Middle East themed movie night or a run for your life. Pick one that will help you reach your fundraising target. Put some dates in the diary and off you go!

MAIRANGI AND CASTOR BAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HELD A COMBINED SERVICE WITH THEIR HINDI MISSION CONGREGATION, FINISHING WITH AN OPERATION REFUGEE BANQUET. AN INDIAN MAIN COURSE AND A KIWI DESSERT SET THE TONE FOR AN ENJOYABLE EVENING.

AT MAIRANGI BAY WE HAVE A HINDI LANGUAGE SERVICE TWICE A MONTH IN THE EVENINGS. THIS WAS STARTED 2 YEARS AGO BY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS (RAJU GEORGE) WHO WAS ORDAINED INTO THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN DELHI.

SOME OF US NON HINDI SPEAKERS ATTEND AND TRY TO JOIN IN THE HYMNS WHICH ARE ENERGETIC, FAST MOVING AND SONG WITH GUSTO. WE ALSO APPRECIATE THE BURSTS OF ENGLISH WHICH COME THROUGH AND WE ARE RANDOMLY INVITED TO SPEAK ON THE BASIS THAT 'EVERY INVITATION SHALL COME AS A SURPRISE'.

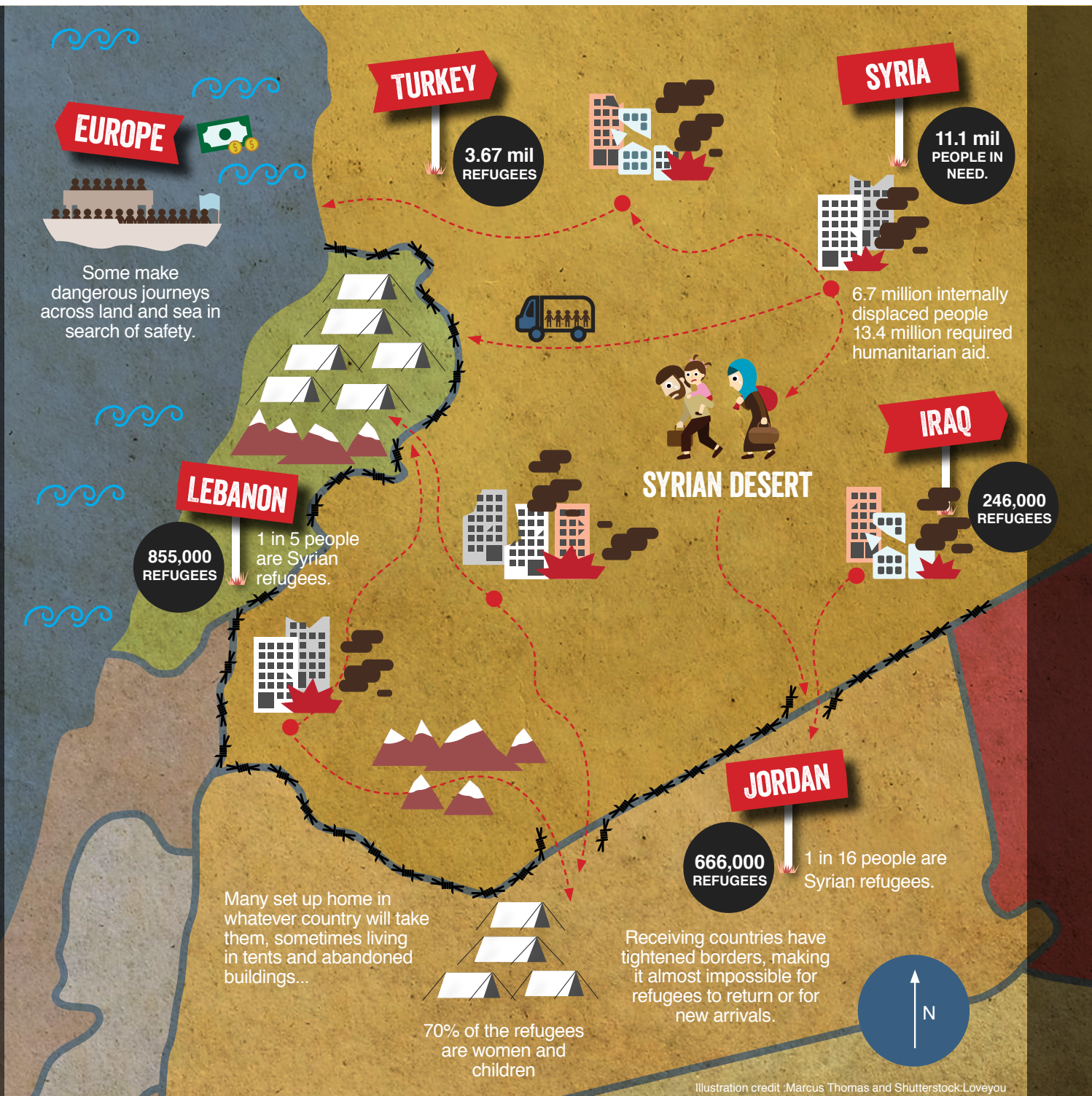
BRINGING OUR 10AM CONGREGATION TOGETHER WITH OUR HINDI MISSION CONGREGATION IS ONE OF OUR OBJECTIVES AND THIS HAPPENED ON THE EVENING OF 1 NOVEMBER WHEN WE HAD A COMBINED SERVICE WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A MEAL WITH INDIAN MAIN COURSE AND KIWI DESSERT. DONATIONS WENT TO OPERATION REFUGEE. ALL IN ALL IT WAS A VERY DIGESTIBLE EVENING.

STEWART MILNE



OPERATION REFUGEE

THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA HAS NOT ENDED. THE SUFFERING CONTINUES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS. SYRIA IS THE LARGEST SOURCE OF REFUGEES IN THE WORLD. MOST REFUGEES SAY IT IS NOT SAFE TO RETURN.





FINISHING IN STYLE! WELL DONE!

What a fantastic effort. At the beginning you may have wondered if you would make it. Congratulations on completing this epic journey for both you and those who supported you. The money you have raised will be a lifeline to refugee families living in Lebanon and Jordan. Together we have made a strong statement to say we are with refugees.

Thank you – and thanks for sharing your story with others too.

ONE FINAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORS

Now that you have finished the challenge, it's time to send one last big thank you message to all your wonderful sponsors. Send your friends, family and colleagues one final thank you via social media and email, letting them know how it went, sending a few photos and a video if you have one. Make them feel proud of supporting you, because they should be.

WRAP UP YOUR FUNDRAISING

Please make sure you complete your fundraising as soon as you finish your challenge and any money you have raised outside of your online fundraising page has been sent to Christian World Service.

STAY INVOLVED WITH CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE

You have had a taste of fundraising and making a difference to communities threatened by conflict and disaster. Why stop here? There are many ways for you to stay involved with CWS. For ideas on how you can give, raise funds and take action visit our website www.cws.org.nz or contact our team on 0800 74 73 72 or cws@cws.org.nz



“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE CHALLENGE AND SHARING THIS POWERFUL EXPERIENCE WITH THOSE AROUND YOU.”

OPERATION REFUGEE

GOING DEEPER

“ADVOCATING FOR REFUGEES IN LEBANON AND JORDAN THROUGH OPERATION REFUGEE IS ONE WAY I CAN RESPOND TO CHRIST’S MANDATE TO DO JUSTICE AND LOVE MERCY. IT ALSO ALLOWS ME TO HELP EMPOWER PEOPLE IN THEIR LOCAL CONTEXTS TO BE ABLE TO MEET THEIR IMMEDIATE LOCAL NEEDS”

KATHLENE

You’ve done Operation Refugee and want to know more! Learning about the technical definitions is a good place to start. New Zealand accepts a comparatively small number of refugees for resettlement and the amount of government aid to assist refugees is small. Check the Operation Refugee Facebook Group or contact Eric at eric.park@cws.org.nz.

Follow the Operation Refugee Blog on our website.

*A **refugee** is a person who, ‘owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail the protection of that country.’*

UN Convention on Refugees, 1951

*“**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.” UNHCR*

IN NUMBERS

- 82.4 million displaced people.
- 48 million people are internally displaced.
- 26.4 million are refugees of whom 6.7 million are Syrian and 5.7 million Palestinian. Around half of

them are under the age of 18.

- 1 in every 95 people has fled their home because of conflict or persecution.
- There are millions of stateless people who do not have a recognised nationality or citizenship and therefore do not belong to any country. This lack of identity excludes them from access to basic services including health care, education and employment.

REFUGEE RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

New Zealand has ratified the:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948)
- United Nations Convention on Refugees (1951),
- Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1982) – Article 22

New Zealand accepts 1,500 refugees each year. With Covid-19, the government stopped resettlement. In February this year it reopened the quota for 35 refugees and expects to resettle 242 by the end of June. All will spend 14 days in quarantine followed by five weeks at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre before being resettled in the Auckland region, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington region, Nelson, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill. Refugees who arrive in NZ under the Refugee Quota Programme are granted Permanent Residence status in NZ. Since World War II Aotearoa New Zealand has resettled over 35,000 refugees

THANKS CHARTWELL!

Chartwell Co-operating Church in Hamilton invited Eric Park to run a workshop for interested folk which led to the church running three events and topping the national leaderboard for Operation Refugee in 2020, raising a whopping \$6,400.76! Some took part in a sponsored 60km walk over six days, others ate refugee type food rations.

Hosting an Operation Refugee Banquet, catered by ‘Home Kitchen’, a social enterprise which supports former refugees with training and employment topped off the activities. A highlight was having Abdirizak, a leader in the local Somalian community, as a guest speaker. He told his story of being a refugee and settling in Aotearoa, which highlighted the richness and diversity that former refugees add to our community.



Thanks to the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon for stories and images.

Thanks to Paul Jeffrey, ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) for images.

Thanks to Felicity Jansonius and Kathlene Soo for being part of the DSPR Jordan and DSPR Lebanon Operation Refugee Team.

"Thanks for your act of kindness. We will always cherish it in our hearts. Thank you for your support and being part of Operation Refugee and raising funds to support us. In today's world, where there is no help or thought for refugees, you went out of the way for us. God bless you."

A Syrian refugee living in Jordan



WAIKATO UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN BROTHER ANDREW SWUNG INTO ACTION EARLY IN THE CAMPAIGN. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PUBLIC'S NEW FAMILIARITY WITH SCANNING QR CODES FOR COVID-19, HE PRINTED SLIPS OF PAPER WITH A QR CODE LINKED TO HIS OPERATION REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PAGE AND SET ABOUT DISTRIBUTING THEM EVERYWHERE HE WENT, ACROSS THE WAIKATO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. HIS FUNDRAISING TOTAL CLIMBED STEADILY, TOPPED \$1,000 AND HAD HIM AT THE TOP OF THE LEADERBOARD FOR SOME TIME.

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