

WELCOMING LEBANESE FAMILIES IN SYRIA



SITUATIONAL REPORT
November 2024

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE
MENA Office



THE CONTEXT

Israeli airstrikes, bombings, and military operations in Lebanon have **killed hundreds** of people, **wounded thousands** more, and caused large-scale destruction. **More than 1.2 million people have been forced to flee their homes**, and many Lebanese and Refugee families have **sought refuge across the border in Syria**.

On October 3, 2024, the Jesuits and local authorities assisted the Jesuit Refugee Service in Syria (JRS Syria) to manage a shelter at the **Al-Ard Jesuit House** near Al-Qusayr. This initiative underscores JRS's commitment to providing safety and dignity to those displaced by conflict.

The Al-Ard shelter officially opened on October 7, 2024, receiving 17 individuals at first. Since then, it has provided refuge to a total of 37 families (168 individuals), with 20 families (86 people) currently residing there.

JRS has established a **Crisis Management Team** under the coordination of the JRS International Office to monitor the situation in Lebanon and Syria, ensure the safety of staff members, and mobilise resources.

JRS RESPONSE IN SYRIA

In line with its mission and deeply rooted Jesuit values, JRS Syria has swiftly mobilized its programs and staff to respond to the urgent needs of families fleeing the violence in Lebanon. Guided by a commitment to accompaniment, service, and advocacy, JRS has transformed the Al-Ard shelter into a place of safety, dignity, and hope.

Al-Ard shelter meets the basic needs of its residents, providing a safe and supportive environment:

- Private rooms for each family, with access to shared sanitary facilities.
- Daily meals (three meals and a snack), and access to a communal fridge and gas stove.
- Hygiene products tailored to individual needs.
- Psychosocial support (PSS) provided by social workers five days a week.
- Educational activities for children, held two hours and a half daily, six days a week.
- A dedicated residential team is present 24/7 to manage logistics, offer psychological first aid (PFA), and foster a sense of community.



“Fr. Vincent De Beauhoudrey, JRS Country Director in Syria, highlighted the unique atmosphere at Al-Ard, describing it as a haven of warmth and solidarity amidst the chaos of war. “I was even more impressed by the quality of the atmosphere at Al-Ard, how our team has managed to create a smooth atmosphere,” he remarked.

Despite the challenges, moments of connection and joy prevail. “It is true that coffee and narghile are not always healthy, but it is so nice to see people sharing narghile and laughing with a coffee, even a few minutes after we have heard the sounds of the bombings,” he added.

The community’s care for one another is profound, as shown when families supported each other during an elderly man’s passing or during hospital visits. Reflecting on his visits, Fr. Vincent shared, “A child even told the tutors: ‘I hope the war is over, but I don’t want Al-Ard to be over.’”





JRS ACTIVITIES IN THE SHELTER

- **Clothing and Essentials**

Generous contributions from JRS staff in Homs and local organizations, such as the Syrian Orthodox Church, have provided clothing, jackets, and other essentials. Efforts are ongoing to secure adequate footwear.

- **Recreational and PSS Activities**

Sports and outdoor activities, such as football and hikes, are vital in promoting physical and mental well-being. Social workers organize gatherings like “sobhie” for women, fostering a supportive environment. Cleaning routines often turn into joyful moments, with residents dancing and singing together.

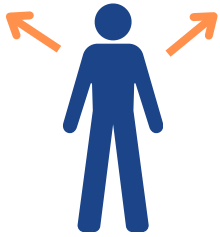
- **Community Building**

A core part of JRS’s mission is fostering community ties. A recent barbecue brought together 25 residents from Al-Qusayr and Al-Ard, bridging differences in nationality, religion, and gender. Despite the ever-present shadow of war, such events offer a moment of unity and joy.

- **Health Services**

While JRS does not directly offer health services, it collaborates with partners like the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the Ministry of Health. Recent initiatives include vaccination campaigns, vitamin distributions, and women’s health awareness sessions. Prompt responses to health concerns, such as a recent mild food poisoning incident, highlight the shelter’s emphasis on safety and well-being.

JRS Syria Response in Numbers



601,437

64% Syrians, 36% Lebanese

Lebanese and Syrian individuals crossed into Syrian territory.

Lebanon Crisis
Immediate Help Needed



Response within JRS Projects sites

All numbers reported reflect JRS response activities until November 13, 2024

Total Registered



Families

141

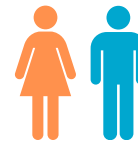
61% Syrians
39% Lebanese



Individuals

634

Demographics



54% 46%



50%



50%



32

Individuals Receiving Health Consultations



26

Individuals receiving Medications



13

Referrals

Response within Al-Ared Shelter

Total Registered in the Shelter since October 7



Families

37

98% Lebanese
2% Syrians



Individuals

168



53% 47%



53%



47%

Currently Residing in the Shelter



86
Individuals & 20 families



51% 49%



64%



36%

Every day, each person in the shelter is provided with three meals and a snack. Additionally, all residents benefit from the blankets, pillows, towels, and hygiene products already available on-site and as needed.

JRS social workers provide daily PSS follow-up, and children participate in one session (two hours) of educational activities each weekday.



8,064

Meals



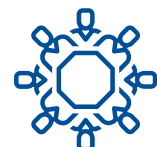
200+

Hygiene Items



300+

Recreational Sessions for Children



30

PSS sessions Delivered to Children and Adults



700+

Core relief items (blankets, pillows, mattresses)



500+

items of donated clothing from outside the Shelter



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

JRS is rapidly scaling up its humanitarian response in Lebanon and Syria. We are grateful for the support of our global community as we implement emergency response operations during the next six months. Our teams are working tirelessly to provide essential services to those who need them the most.

Fr. Daniel Corrou, the regional Director of JRS MENA, is grateful “for the immediate outpouring of concern from friends around the world. It is with your support, your encouragement, your solidarity that we are able to provide the essential services that are needed in the midst of a war.”

As we continue to answer urgent needs in a fast-changing landscape, the JRS Crisis Management Team is grateful for your solidarity and accompaniment, which allows us to respond immediately and flexibly to sudden crises and emergencies.

To read more about the JRS response in the region:

- [Visit the dedicated page on JRS website.](#)
- Follow us on social media: [@JRS_MENA](#)

