

Israeli Aid to Syria

Israel has assumed an ethical duty to help the victims of the brutal civil war in Syria. Despite security concerns, the Jewish state maintains a dedicated effort to supply aid to the beleaguered Syrian people.

Israel is taking an active role to help Syrian civilians that have been displaced and wounded during the war.

- Although still technically at war with Syria, **Israel has opened its border to provide humanitarian aid**¹ to the war torn country, which has consistently refused to recognize the Jewish state's existence.²
 - In the words of former Israeli Defense Minister, Moshe Ya'alon, Israel "*cannot remain indifferent*" in the face of such a humanitarian disaster.
 - **Over 3,000 injured Syrians have been treated in Israel** since the outbreak of the civil war.³
- Moved by their own history of anti-Jewish persecution, **thousands of Israelis are donating to help** victims of the Syrian civil war.⁴
 - The "Just Beyond our Border" crowdfunding campaign, launched on December 15, 2016, has raised over **\$435,000** through **private donations** to help Syrian children.⁵
 - Meanwhile, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been the only Arab countries to provide significant humanitarian aid to the Syrian people.⁶
 - Amaliah, an Israeli organization, offers generous humanitarian services to the people of Syria, including food, medical aid, water, and hospital visits in Israel.⁷
 - Since August 2016, Amaliah has managed to bring in three busloads of Syrians — 120 children — to be treated in advanced Israeli hospitals.
- The **treatment of sick and injured Syrians is fully covered by Israel**: A third is paid for by the Ministry of Defense, a third is paid for by the Ministry of Health, and a third is paid for by the hospitals in which the patients are treated.⁸
- Even in Jordan, Israeli NGOs are providing humanitarian relief to displaced refugees by supplying funds and basic necessities like food and water.⁹
 - Since the Jordanian government lacked the resources necessary to help the Syrian refugees, they were eager to build a partnership with the NGOs.¹⁰

¹ The Jerusalem Post. For First Time During Syria War, Israel Opens Border For Humanitarian Aid. July 27, 2016.

² U.S. House of Representatives. H. Res. 1249. June 5, 2008.

³ Breitbart. Israel Treats Thousands of War-Wounded Syrians. April 8, 2017.

⁴ United With Israel. *Israelis Come to the Aid of Syrian Refugee Children*. December 20, 2016.

⁵ MIMOONA Crowdfunding. *Just beyond our border - Israelis for the Syrian Children*. December 15, 2016.

⁶ UNOCHA Regional Funding Update - Syria Crisis. Reported on 1 Dec. 2015

⁷ The Times of Israel. *The 'never again' imperative: Why and how Israelis are helping Syrians*. January 25, 2017.

⁸ The New York Times. *Despite Decades of Enmity, Israel Quietly Aids Syrian Civilians*. January 29, 2014.

⁹ The Times of Israel. *For Syrian refugees in Jordan, aid from Israel comes in a whisper*. October 20, 2013.

¹⁰ Ibid.

Syrian civilians and rebel combatants seek Israel's aid in secret, fearing the repercussions if discovered by their own people.

- Many **Syrians live in fear of Bashar Al-Assad's military forces**. Israel protects the identities of the refugees who come to it for help, as the Syrian regime deems them "collaborators with Israel".¹¹
- Israel Flying Aid (IFA), a non-profit, has been working undercover in Syria since 2011.
 - It "specializes in bringing life-saving aid... where local regimes prevent entry from formal international humanitarian organizations."¹²
- The Israel Defense Forces stationed at the Syrian border transfer wounded Syrians to Israeli hospitals to provide them with **the best possible treatment, as quickly as possible**.¹³
 - Israeli medical response units are not concerned with the identity of Syrian citizens in need. Instead, they focus on saving the lives of wounded patients.¹⁴
 - *"The 'who' does not matter, nor does the 'where.' The only thing that matters is treating... any patient and respecting the dignity of those in need."* -Dr. Ofer Merin, IDF Mobile Field Hospital Unit.¹⁵

¹¹The New York Times. *Despite Decades of Enmity, Israel Quietly Aids Syrian Civilians*. January 29, 2014.

¹² The Times of Israel. *The 'never again' imperative: Why and how Israelis are helping Syrians*. Dov Lieber. January 25, 2017.

¹³The New York Times. *Despite Decades of Enmity, Israel Quietly Aids Syrian Civilians*. January 29, 2014.

¹⁴Israel21c. *Israeli doctors save Syrian lives*. June 26, 2013.

¹⁵ Dr. Ofer Merin, IDF Mobile Field Hospital. AIPAC 2017.