

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 1



Um Ashraf's extended family and children come together and break their Ramadan fast by sharing an Iftar meal in their tent in Jordan.

Unable to afford the traditional meat, the family is eating a meal made of aubergines, cucumbers, peas, beans and rice with tomatoes and potatoes.

"This Ramadan, Iftar is totally unlike the ones we used to have back in Syria, where neighbours would share a lamb and eat with each other," Um Ashraf said. "But what matters most now is that we're all safe together."

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 2

## Hasna – the parent

“My son, Majd El Dine, is 9 years old. He was in Grade 4 in Syria but here he’s in Grade 3. The education system is different here in Lebanon. They teach science and maths in French. In Syria all the lessons are taught in Arabic so my son doesn’t understand the subjects that are taught in French. And that’s why he has been put in Grade 3. He’s a very intelligent boy so when I explained why he had to go back a year he understood. It will be harder when we go back to Syria because Syria won’t accept the Lebanese certificate and so he will have to go back and retake at least a year.

“I also have a 14-year-old son, Yousef, but he decided he’d prefer to work. He would have had to go back two school years and he didn’t want to do that. He said he’d rather be working with his father in construction work because that’s the kind work he wants to do anyway. Even my two daughters are now suffering. They are 21 and 19. My eldest was at university. She was studying sciences and wanted to be a pharmacist or work in a laboratory. The 19 year old was still at school. I stopped them going because I was so scared that something would happen to them, that someone would kidnap them. The eldest has married her cousin. I don’t know if she’ll be able to continue with her education when we go back. I don’t know if there will be anything left of the university, what will have happened to all the teachers. I don’t know what opportunities there will be for any of them – only God knows.”

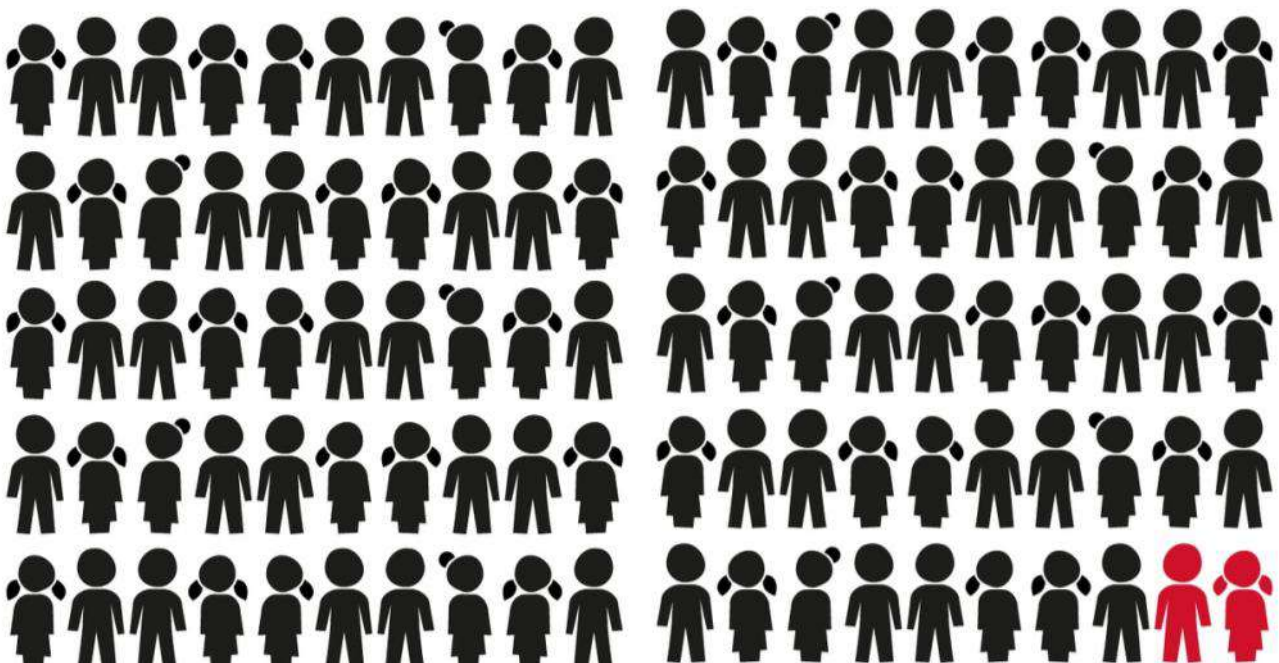
**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 3

## OUT OF SCHOOL



In Lebanon **only 2%** of Syrian refugee children of secondary school age are enrolled in education.

Source: UNHCR

Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?



OXFAM

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 4



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

These are some of the children from two families who were neighbours in Syria before they escaped the war. They now live together in a roughly constructed room in a rubble-strewn open car park area in northern Lebanon.

Asyria, 40, mother to seven of the children said: "Here where we are staying there are many insects, it's damp and the smell is so bad we cannot sit inside the room for long.

When we lived in Syria, before the war, we were very happy but living in this situation is better than living in the middle of a war and all the fighting. Here at least I feel the children are safe."

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 5



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

A boy dumps household waste from a wheelbarrow just a few metres outside an abandoned shopping centre occupied by 90 Syrian families in northern Lebanon.

The centre has been connected to a nearby water tower and has an erratic water supply. However, it has no waste disposal, and rubbish and waste is piling up.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 6

## School — the Lebanese Headteacher

Name: Hassan Khabbaz	<b>Syrian refugees per class</b>	
Job: Headteacher	Reception Year 1	= 16
School: A government school for children aged 4 – 7 years.	Reception Year 2	= 25
Number of children: 323 pupils. 59 are Syrian refugees	Year 1	= 13
	Year 2	= 4
	Year 3	= 1

“The first challenge is the difference between the two education systems. This is not a very big problem for the pre-school children as they are just taking their first steps in education. It’s when you get to the higher grades that they start feeling the difference in the systems. In Syria all lessons are taught in Arabic whilst here we teach in French and English. Their parents can’t help them as they don’t speak French or English either. Plus the parents are often facing many problems and worries so it’s difficult for them to take care of their children’s studies as well. But then many Lebanese parents don’t have time either!

“Charities have helped the Syrian students with some of the school materials so there haven’t been problems with resources.

“For the teachers there have been no problems or challenges. All the children mix together and there are no differences. It’s easy at the age the children are at in this school.

“Some students have obviously been affected by the crisis but it doesn’t seem to be affecting the children we have here very negatively. Some talk about it but not a lot.

“We have accepted some very late arrivals. We normally enrol children in September but we still took some in who arrived a month or so ago (in April). Even if they had problems with identity cards they could come. If it is a Lebanese child that’s starting here we need a certificate from their previous school but for the Syrian children we discuss what grade they were in with their parents. We have taken in all who have applied to the school.

“Those who are in the intermediary and higher stages of education are the ones who struggle the most and can’t cope with the system because science and maths are taught in foreign languages here and they can’t understand.

“Even if the number of students was high we wouldn’t be rejecting them. We have space for at least five more in each class and we could open new classes if needed. There was an entrance test to assess what class the children should go into. None failed the test but we had a policy that if anyone failed we would still find a class for them.”

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 7



Luca Sola/Oxfam

An Oxfam project paid for an oil heater for Hanin and her husband. Winter in Lebanon can be very cold.

Hanin said: “With a heater everything is different. We can all stay warm and I don’t have to worry so much about my son and think that he might get sick.”

Relatively few refugees benefit from projects like this.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 8

**0.9 MILLION  
SYRIAN REFUGEES  
ARE  
CHILDREN**

Source: UNICEF (August 2013)

Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?



**OXFAM**



# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 9



Anastasia Taylor-Lind/Oxfam

Shaikha Al-Harari, 32, sits with her disabled five-year-old nephew Mohammed Al-Harari in Za'atari Camp in Jordan. Shaikha has been looking after Mohammed since his mother died during child birth.

She said: "We have had no medical treatment for him at all. If he had medical care he would improve a little bit but as it's not here, he will stay in the same situation."

Some residents of Za'atari have long distances to walk to obtain medical care or are unaware that care is available. The camp has grown very quickly and providing health services for residents has been a challenge.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 10



Jane Beesley/Oxfam

Children in Za'atari Camp in Jordan are often sent by their parents to collect water. This is hard work for a child.

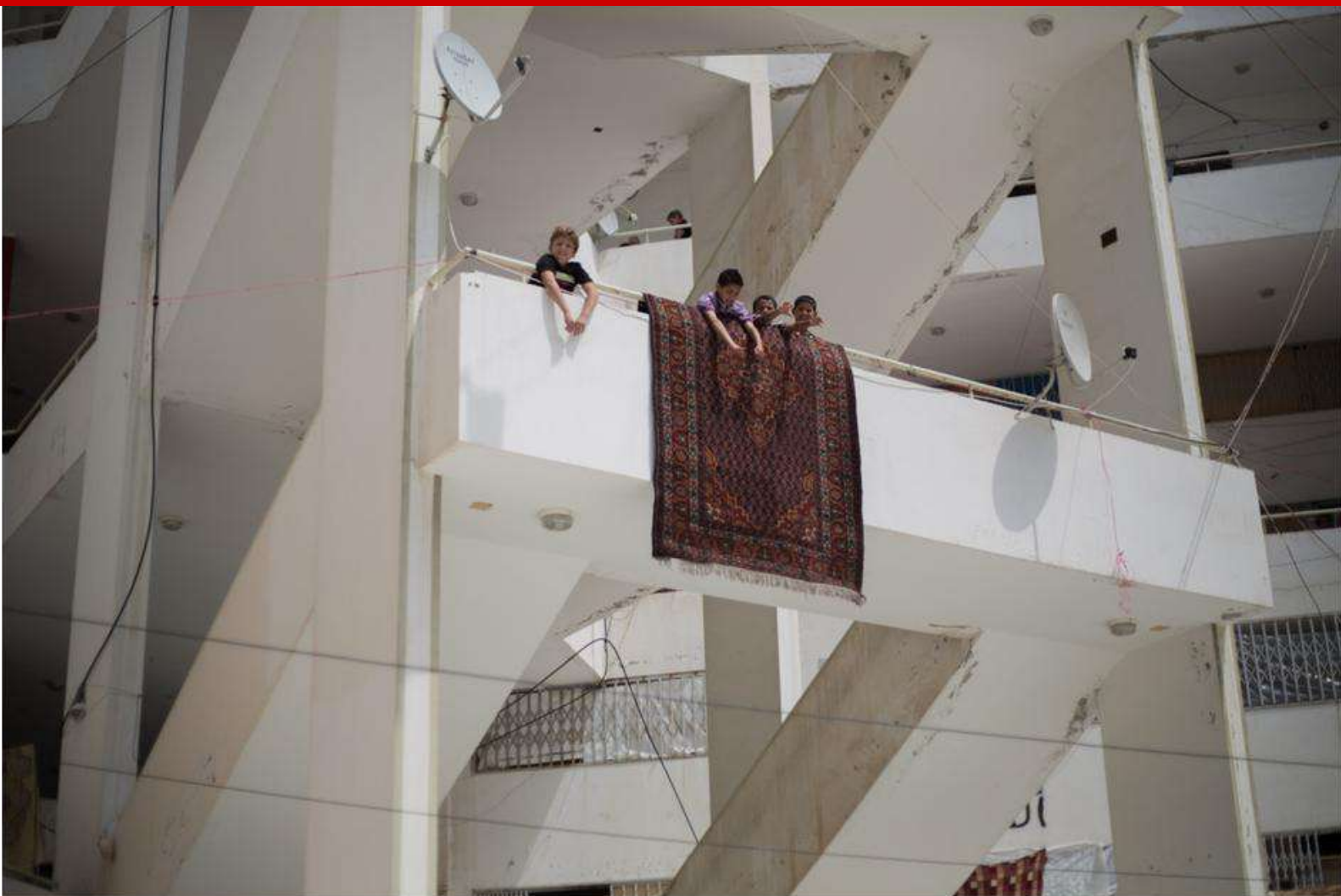
However, sometimes children turn this chore into a game. This boy is playing by dragging a bucket of water along on a lid.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 11



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Samir, 12, (left) and other young Syrian refugees play in an abandoned shopping centre in northern Lebanon that is home to 90 Syrian families.

The building is incomplete and some stairwells and walkways lack railings and safety barriers. In other places concrete is collapsing because of neglect.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 12



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

The Dabbour family of five from Damascus have been living in a room which they've rented for £66 a month for the last year in Al Jaleel Camp, Lebanon.

The mother, Raja, 40, is seen preparing the Iftar meal that breaks the Ramadan fast for her husband Seif, 50, her two sons Mohammed, 11, and Ahmed, 10; and her daughter Lulu, 7. All she has for the meal is rice and potatoes cooked in flour, and some stale bread.

Seif said "My wife and children fast, but I'm no longer bothered. We haven't eaten meat in a year. After the market closes down, I go to look for the rotting fruits and vegetables left in the street. I found a teddy bear in a rubbish bin, which I washed and brought for Lulu. I have no idea how I'll pay next month's rent, and I can't even give money to my children to buy sweets. I pray to God we'll finally have peace so that we can return to Syria. I just want my sons to be able to play football, my daughter to play with her friends, to live in peace again."

Lulu said: "I miss my bicycle, and my friends. Here I have no one to play with. Ramadan in Syria was the best month of the year but now it's nothing special."

Raja has been on anti-depressants over the last month. She said: "There are nights when I can't sleep or I keep crying all day. We're becoming mentally sick here."

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 13



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Tayb, 15, burns sticks to heat water for washing near the roughly constructed room where she lives with her mother and six siblings. Home is a rubble-strewn open car park area under an apartment block in northern Lebanon.

The family has neither a regular water supply nor fuel for heating. Therefore Tayb has to heat water she has fetched over an open fire. This is a difficult and time consuming job.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 14



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Trash piles up right outside this abandoned shopping centre in Lebanon, which is now home to some 100 Syrian families living in rooms measuring around 15 feet x 30 feet.

Water is available occasionally. A pile of trash is building up right outside the centre and the smell of waste is everywhere. Oxfam hopes to improve the water supply for the centre.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 15



Karl Schembri/Oxfam

Refugee adults and children gather in one of the makeshift mosques in Za'atari Camp for Tarawih, the extra prayers performed at night by Muslims during Ramadan.

The camp hosts over 120,000 Syrian refugees and has several mosques like this set up for the faithful.

Besides offering spaces for prayer and contemplation, mosques also become centres of social and charitable activities during the holy month of Ramadan.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 16

**EVERY DAY  
125 SYRIAN BABIES  
ARE BORN AS  
REFUGEES**

Source: UNICEF (March 2013)

Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?



**OXFAM**



# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 17



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Abdallah, 5, is disabled and lives with his mother and four brothers and sisters in a disused shopping centre in northern Lebanon. The centre was empty before Syrian refugees started moving in. Today there are about 100 families living there in rooms around 15 feet x 30 feet. They have no or little furniture and many sleep on mats on the floor.

Oxfam is helping some families to pay their rent with a cash transfer of \$150 per household per month for two months. People will also be receiving vouchers for food and hygiene items. These will be one off payments and people will receive \$27 per person for food and \$10 per person for hygiene supplies.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 18

*“I hope my four boys will have a good future, it is very miserable seeing them not able to attend school. Two of them went to school here but they can't understand any of the Lebanese education system and now the year is nearly finished. They haven't understood anything they have studied. There is also nowhere here for the boys to study, no peace for them to do their work.”*

Aysha Ahmed

Lebanon

January 2013

Note: Lebanese secondary schools teach many lessons in French and English while Syrian schools teach in Arabic

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 19



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

There can be few things more distressing than the experience of war and exile, and the World Health Organisation estimates that over half of all refugees have mental health problems. Children are particularly at risk from the effects of trauma and distress.

It's been more than two years since the start of the war in Syria, and over 1.5 million Syrians have fled their homeland. As part of its hygiene promotion work Oxfam is running a children's art project for youngsters aged between four and 14. The children are painting tiles which will be used in communal washing blocks. One of the big difficulties for children in the camp is boredom.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 20



Karl Schembri/Oxfam

Six-year-old Ahmed poses for a photo in one of the 48 new wash blocks just completed by Oxfam in Za'atari Camp, Jordan. The blocks include wash basins for laundry, showers, toilets, hand washing sinks and special toilets for disabled people.

The community is now in charge of the wash block, symbolised by the hand-over of a set of keys to a child.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 21



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Amany Mohammad, 27, fled her home in Syria with her husband and five children. They now live in a disused shopping centre in Lebanon with around 100 other families.

Amany told Oxfam: "Our biggest issue is cash. I've only seen my husband twice since coming here. He lives away from us in a basement where he is working. We want to be together but the owner won't agree to us all being there"

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 22



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Reema is a 12 year old Syrian refugee living in northern Lebanon. Here is her 'life in a day':

"I don't have any activities during the day. The only thing I have now is to write and draw when I have a notebook and pens. When I was in Syria my day was filled with going to school and being with my friends. This took up all my time. I loved school. I loved studying. I loved my teachers and I loved my friends. This took up all my time and I miss it very much. Here I don't have school to go to and I don't have any of my friends. I don't know anybody. I stay at home with my brothers and sister. I have three brothers. They are aged ten, seven and two. I just have one sister. She's nine and we are good friends. Back in Syria we had hens and doves but we have nothing here. We don't have running water like we did at home. We have to go to a spring nearby to collect water. We don't know if it's clean or not.

"There is one song called 'Tomorrow will be better' and I like to sing that and I write poems, which I sometimes turn into songs.

"School was everything in my life. It was like my second home and I hope I can go back to it soon."

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 23



Simon Rawles/Oxfam

A group of Syrian boys stand outside an Oxfam washing station in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan.

Oxfam has provided 20,000 Syrian refugees with emergency latrines and recently completed shower, toilet and laundry blocks like this to serve 8,000 refugees. Oxfam is also organising hygiene training to prevent the spread of life-threatening diseases. Oxfam has held hygiene lessons with children and a tile-painting project giving children the chance to decorate the tiles in the wash blocks.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 24



Anastasia Taylor Lind/Oxfam

Moneera Al-Harari sits in the tent she shares with her father, brother and sister.

She fled Syria with her extended family in August 2012 and arrived at Za'atari Camp in Jordan. Many of her relatives, including 30 nieces and nephews, live on the same "street," where two rows of tents are pitched tightly together.

They have set up a routine for looking after each other since their arrival, and welcome other friends and family as they arrive.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**



# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 25



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Abu Rafi used to work as an engineer in Damascus but he has opened the first BBQ take-away in Za'atari refugee camp.

“I’ve had little luck working as an engineer here so the idea just came to me that I had to do something else away from home,” he said. “To be honest Ramadan is not that great for business, but people know me as the first and best BBQ shop here so I can’t let them down.”

Za’atari has a ‘main street’ where enterprising Syrians have set up small businesses like Abu Rafi’s. However, only a tiny number of camp residents have been able to set up a business or find a job. As a result the vast majority depend on the UN organisations and charities for their basic needs.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 26



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Amal, 5, plays outside her home. Home is a roughly constructed room in a rubble-strewn car park under an apartment block in northern Lebanon. She lives there with her parents and four brothers and sisters.

Her mother Mariam, 28, said: "We are just here trying to survive. The owner keeps threatening to evict us because we can't pay the rent and he wants to rent the rooms to others.

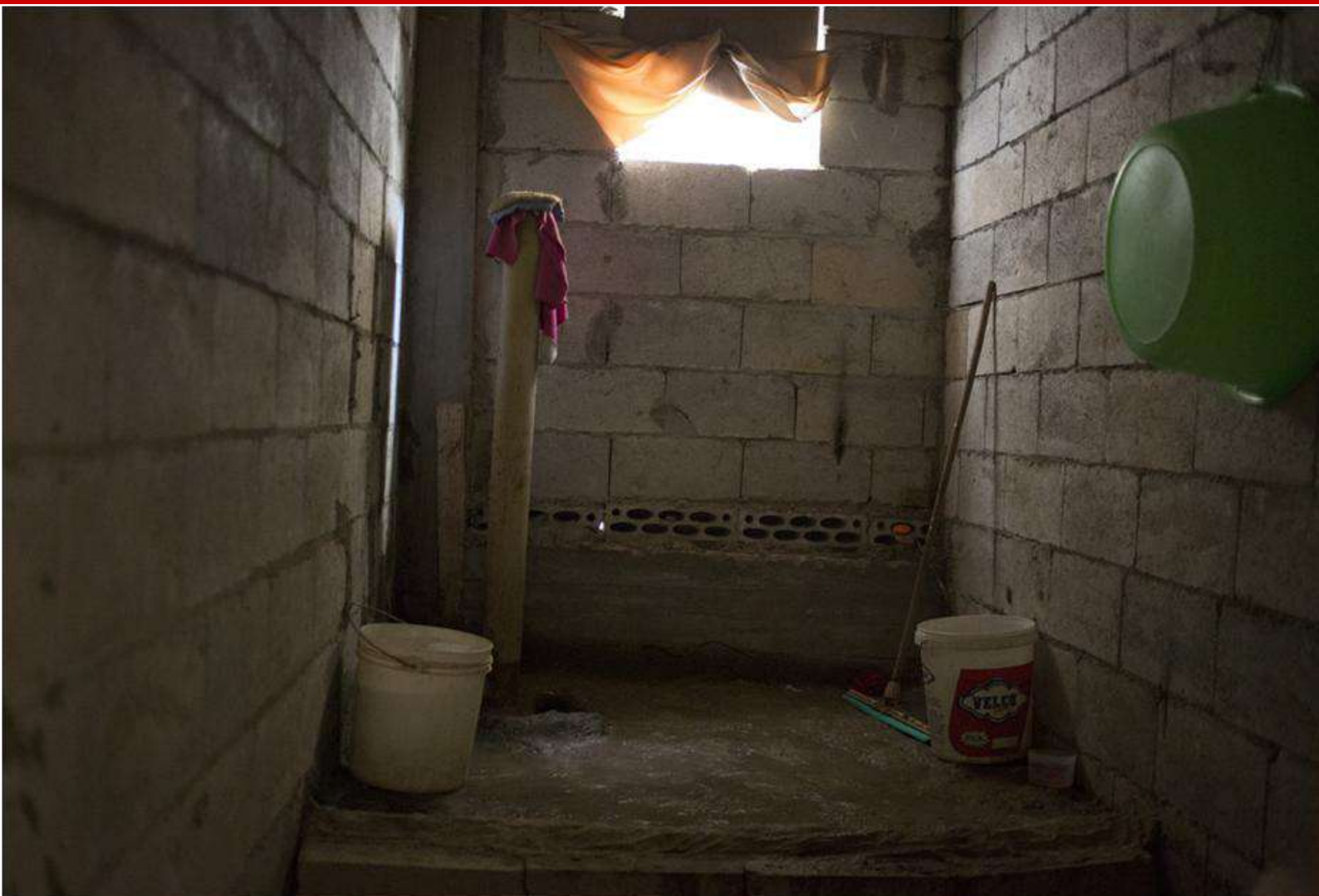
"My husband is looking for a job. He has been looking for a long time but there are so many refugees in Lebanon he can't find a job, and he can't find us a better room than this. Without a job we can't even pay the rent here never mind a better room."

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 27



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

This bleak, un-plumbed room serves as a 'toilet' and 'bathroom' inside the partly constructed building that serves as home for Reema, 12, and her family. They are refugees from Syria living in Lebanon.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 28



Karl Schembri/Oxfam

This quote is by a parent living at Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan.

“The ground at the camp is very hard to get around on. The surface is rocky and the children hurt themselves a lot. I'm worried when they run around a lot as they might have an accident. The hospital is far away and there is no transport. It would be very hard for me to carry one of my children so far for treatment.”

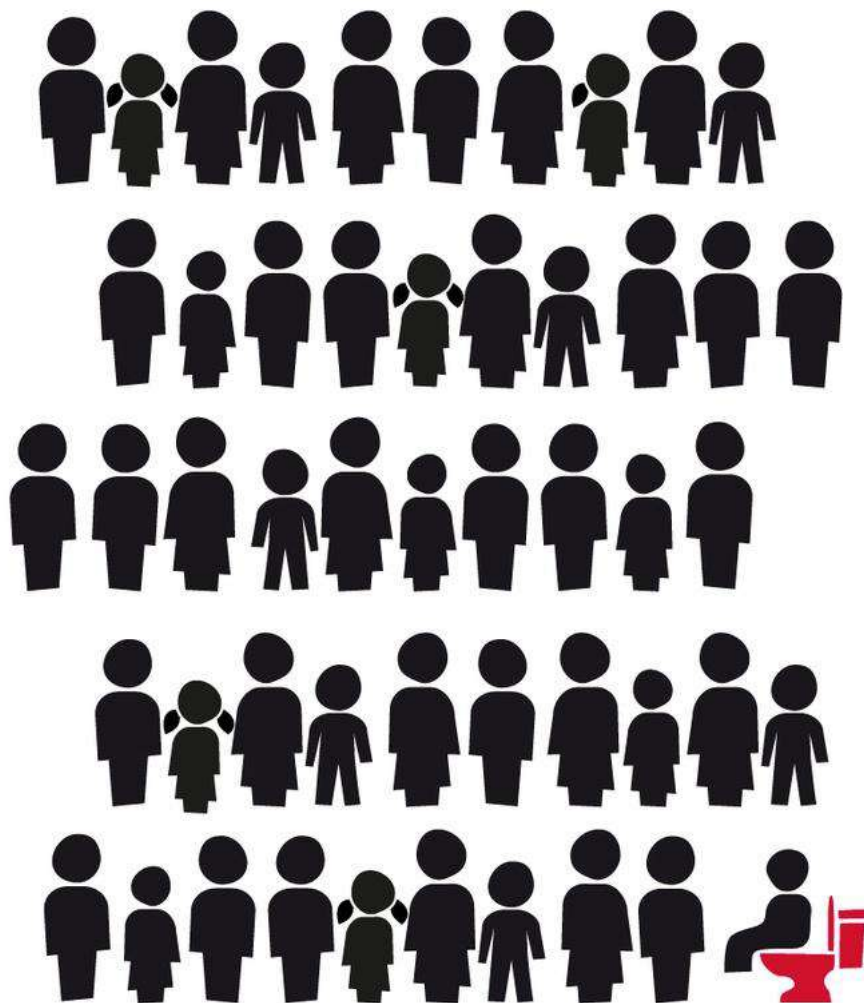
**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 29

## HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU SHARE A TOILET WITH?



In Zaatari Camp in Jordan, there is only  
1 toilet for every 50 Syrian refugees.

Source: Unicef

Does this evidence suggest that rights  
from the UNCRC are being upheld?



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 30



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Halin Hussein, a mother of five, buys fruit in a supermarket in southern Lebanon that she will pay for using \$150 coupons provided by Oxfam.

Halin, who lives with her two sons and their families in a Palestinian refugee, received the coupons for food and hygiene items.

People who spoke with Oxfam said that the coupon scheme was preferable to direct food aid as it allowed them to better meet their needs and gave them choice. Through Oxfam's scheme 150,000 out of more than 500,000 refugees in Lebanon will receive cash in the form of vouchers for food and hygiene items.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 31



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Qusay plays with his bike. Qusay is four years old and lives with his mother and six brothers and sisters in a roughly constructed room in a rubble-strewn open car park area under an apartment block in northern Lebanon. His family pays \$100 every month for the room in which they live. His father died three years ago.

His mother, Asyria, 40 said "Here where we are staying there are many insects. It's damp and the smell is so bad we can't sit inside the room for long. When we lived in Syria, before the war, we were very happy but living in this situation is better than living in the middle of a war and all the fighting. Here at least I feel the children are safe."

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 32



Sam Tarling/Oxfam

Reema is a 12 year old Syrian refugee living in northern Lebanon. She spends virtually all day indoors without being able to attend school, and spends her time writing poems and stories. Here is one of her poems. She was keen that children in the UK would read it.

First of all Reema explains why she writes;

'I used to enjoy writing before but since coming here, after this tragedy, I have to write, I need to write. I couldn't stop writing even if I wanted to. The sadness drives me to write all the time.'

## Poem 1

### Syria

Syria, we love you with all our hearts  
Your children long to see you  
We will never forget you  
We will be back one day to wipe the tears  
off your cheeks  
We will return one day to our mother's  
arms  
and kiss her forehead, her flowers, her  
soil  
Beloved Syria, we will be back one day

*(Syria, the one and only  
Syria, my beloved Syria,  
I will come back to you one day)*

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**



# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 33



Luca Sola/Oxfam

Zainah and her family live in this tented settlement in Lebanon with three other families, including their children.

It is very cramped, bitterly cold in winter and baking hot in summer. It is unsanitary with no toilet or water pump.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# **SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 34**

**ONE  
IN EVERY FIVE  
SCHOOLS  
IN SYRIA IS  
DESTROYED**

**Does this evidence suggest that rights  
from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 35



Reema is a 12 year old Syrian refugee living with her parents and family in a semi-constructed house in Lebanon.

Reema writes poetry and draws pictures about her experiences as a refugee.

The banners the children are holding read

*'Where are the rights of childhood'*

*'My school is in my heart'*

*'I want my house'*

*'Freedom. Dignity'*

Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?



OXFAM

# SYRIA REFUGEE CARD 36



Luca Sola/Oxfam

Boys play football at Jaleel refugee camp.

Jaleel refugee camp is one of the oldest Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and was set up in 1948. There were 3000 people living there before refugees started to arrive from Syria. They estimate a further 3500 refugees have arrived since the summer of 2012, more than doubling the size of the camp.

**Does this evidence suggest that rights from the UNCRC are being upheld?**



**OXFAM**