

## Living in Dust

Za'atari, in Jordan, is considered the largest camp in the world for Syrian refugees; the camp continues to grow in the desert, where little else is able to survive. Perhaps one of the worst parts about Za'atari camp is its arid landscape and dry air quality. The ground is covered in dust and the air is filled with it. It's suffocating.

Anyone who enters Za'atari comes out coated in white sand. The children of the camp suffer most in these living conditions: the dust fills their lungs. Many have developed asthma, and infections of the eyes, throat, nose and ears. Their families were forced to flee violence at home to keep their children safe?now, they find themselves fighting against these elements.

That they have little water to spare exacerbates the situation. They use the minimal amount of water possible to wash away the dirt, and use the rest to drink, hoping that it is safe. There isn't much food to help them grow strong either?so their immune systems are further weakened making them even more vulnerable to the harsh conditions.

Dua'a is 13 years old, but because of the dust, she coughs like someone much, much older. Her cough is chronic, and sometimes she coughs so hard, she can't breathe. Her eyes are bloodshot, and even sitting is difficult for her. She suffers without any relief from the weather in the camp. She, along with her parents, brothers and sisters, lives in a flimsy tent with little more than two mattresses on the ground, a few loaves of pita bread, and a small lantern.

Through your support, Islamic Relief USA has helped deliver five 40-foot containers of vital emergency aid to Za'atari camp so that children, like Dua'a, and their families can have food, clean water, fresh clothes, hygiene kits, medicine and more. These basic items could save their lives.

And, through your continued support, we can do even more. Please visit our [Syrian Humanitarian Relief](#) page to learn more about efforts for Syrians in need, and to donate today.