

*Syrian refugees in Zaatari camp, Jordan*

## ***Shattered lives with little hope***



A few kilometers away from the Syrian city of Daraa, over 31,000 Syrian refugees are living in the Zaatari refugee camp, having fled the violence in Syria. They are living in tents supervised by Islamic Relief's local partner, the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO).

Islamic Relief is on the ground in the Zaatari Camp. We met some of the refugees and listened to their stories:

### **Asala, 18-year-old mother**

“I fled the violence in Syria with my husband and son.

Dead bodies were everywhere; people were slaughtered in front of their families. I couldn't bear to see it anymore. I was afraid something might happen to my family, so we decided to leave.

Omar, my son, couldn't sleep well for months because of the terrifying bombing sounds. Even now, he starts shivering and crying at any loud noises. Alhamdulillah, we feel safe here in the camp, but we can't stay here forever, we want to return home!”



### **Yamin, 10-year-old boy**

“We walked for two hours to Jordan. I heard bombs on the way. I was extremely terrified. I was holding my little brother and my parents were holding our belongings. I was so tired.

Since the bombing started in Daraa, we haven't been able to attend school. I don't have books to read or a television to watch. I need the bombings to stop so I can go home.

Now I am sitting here feeling bored and sad because I can't go to school. I should be at school, learning new things.”



### Khadija, 8-year-old girl

"In Syria, if we're playing outside and hear bombs, we run back into our houses. When the sound of the bombs stops, we go back outside and play.

My friend's house was destroyed in Daraa, I don't know what happened to her. Someone told me she was not harmed but I think she might have been killed. I have no idea where she is.

Our house was hit by shrapnel; we left it and hid in a mosque. People told us that our house was totally destroyed!

We fled Daraa and into the Zaatari camp in Jordan. Now we feel safe. We can play here but I miss home and playing with my friends."



### Yusuf Hilal, 56-year-old man

Yusuf fled the Syrian city of Daraa with his son and grandsons. Islamic Relief met him while he was standing outside his tent in the camp:

"We fled our homes and sought refuge in a shelter in Syria. The army attacked the shelter and we had to flee again. I saw many people killed in front of my eyes.

We decided to go towards Jordan. The route was extremely difficult for me as I had recently had open heart surgery. I also suffer from rheumatism, prostate and hip problems.

I lost everything. Our home and properties were destroyed. I used to have money in my pocket at all times, now I only have 50 JDs [54 Euros] for me and my extended family. We're only surviving because of the generosity of the people out there.