

## What is CWS Operation Refugee?

Operation Refugee gives you a chance to give some help to refugees. The challenge is to live on the same rations as a Syrian refugee during Refugee Week 16-20 June and raise as much money as you can. We supply you with the rations and you sign up family and friends as sponsors. The rations are based on what a Syrian refugee receives living in a Lebanese refugee camp. Just a small amount of rice, split peas, salt, fish, flour and oil.

## What's the Problem?

Record numbers of people fleeing their homes because of persecution and war have put the spotlight on refugees. Almost 60million people were registered as refugees in 2014 and all indications are the 2015 figure will be higher. Many are struggling to survive on reduced rations and in conflict zones.

Over 4 million people have fled Syria—about the same number of people as live in Aotearoa New Zealand. Desperate and in debt many are joining the exodus to Europe, determined to help the rest of the family – many of the one million refugees who have made it to Europe since last year come from Syria. Lack of funding means food rations have been cut and fewer services are available to refugees living in border states. With the conflict heading into its sixth year, Syrian refugees are facing a very bleak future. That's why they need your help. Operation Refugee is a practical way to keep hope alive for families who want a better future.



Photo: LWF/M Renaux

*"Everything in Syria is destroyed. It is not safe for my family. As a father I would do anything to make my children happy" says Hamesh, a resident of Za'atari Refugee Camp, Syria .*

## Register

1. Pre-register **today** for Operation Refugee :

[www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

Register and check out the Toolkit after 1.04.2016:

[www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz](http://www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz)

Note. Challenge open to 100 participants.

## Survive

2. Eat rations. *This challenge is not for people under 16.*

Eat the rations as a refugee from Syria during Operation Refugee from 16-20 June. We'll send you a food parcel: just a small amount of rice, flour, salt, fish, split peas and oil.

Note. You supply your own rice. *This will allow us to maximise funds raised by minimising courier costs.*

## Share

3. Fundraise.

Set up your personal fundraising page, set a goal (minimum \$500). Sign up friends, family and work mates as sponsors. Share your experience along the way.



Photo: ACT/P Jeffrey



Auckland Chef Grant Allen will be providing menu suggestions for each day using the ingredients supplied. The more you raise the more 'extras' you can use to supplement the diet!



### Local Partners bring Hope:

In Jordan and Lebanon the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches is providing vital help to Syrian and Palestinian refugees. Whether food, healthcare, education, rental assistance or support services, DSPR makes sure refugees get the help they need. Their way of working integrates families who have been refugees for 60 years and newer arrivals from Syria.

At the core of their programmes is a deep respect for people and a commitment to give the assistance they need. One refugee attending a training programme said, "Nobody has ever talked to us like this before. Nobody has brought us together to ask us what we need, what skills we want to learn." Operation Refugee will give refugees assistance, and better skills and support to help them face each day.

### What the money raised will do:

1. Provide food rations and coupons so families can supplement what they get from the United Nations with what they most need.
2. Provide free medical days in Jordan's refugee camps with volunteer medical staff from Jordan's hospitals.
3. Provide forums so children can play, learn and have fun away from the often bleak reality of their daily lives.
4. Provide tuition, training and support for young students in Lebanon. DSPR organises students to return to Syria to sit senior exams in Arabic rather than French as in Lebanese schools. They are helping others attend university and run preschools.

### For more information contact:

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This new action is based on the successful Ration Challenge developed by Act for Peace in Australia. Both organisations are part of ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together).

**actalliance**



## June 16-20 2016



*Photo: ACT/P Jeffrey*



[www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)