

Five years of civil war in Syria

The civil war in Syria has raged on for five years, exacting a heavy toll on its people. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is looking increasingly secure in his position, thanks to Russian support that has altered the battlefield.

In contrast, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, which once seemed invincible, has been on the receiving end of a series of setbacks. There is now hope for peace after a partial ceasefire went into effect last month.

CONFIRMED DEATHS

Nearly **300,000** people have died

1 icon = 1,000 people

Including...

79,106 civilians

8,760 women
13,500 children

97,842 pro-regime fighters

44,254 Islamist and extremist fighters, including foreigners

46,452 non-jihadist rebel fighters

44,254 Islamist and extremist fighters, including foreigners

TIMELINE OF THE CONFLICT



A man walking past destroyed houses following a snow storm in the Syrian city of Aleppo on Jan 5. Hundreds of thousands of people have died and millions have fled since the conflict in Syria broke out in March 2011.

2011

• **March**

Security forces shoot dead protesters in southern city of Deraa, triggering violent unrest that spreads nationwide.

• **July**

President Bashar al-Assad sacks the governor of Hama after mass demonstrations. Scores of lives lost as troops are sent in to restore order.

• **November**

Arab League suspends Syria, accusing it of failing to implement a peace plan, and imposes sanctions.

2012

• **February**

Government steps up bombardment of Homs and other cities.

• **August**

Prime Minister Riad Hijab defects. President Barack Obama warns that use of chemical weapons would prompt US intervention.

• **December**

US, Britain, France, Turkey and Gulf states formally recognise opposition National Coalition as Syrian people's "legitimate representative".

2013

• **March**

Syrian warplanes bomb Raqa after rebels seize control. US and Britain pledge non-military aid to rebels.

• **September**

UN weapons inspectors conclude chemical weapons were used in an attack in Damascus the previous month that killed 300, but do not lay blame.

• **October**

Mr Assad allows international inspectors to begin destroying Syria's chemical weapons under US-Russia agreement.

2014

• **January-February**

UN-brokered peace talks in Geneva fail.

• **June**

UN announces destruction of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal and materials. Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) declares caliphate from Aleppo to Iraqi province of Diyala.

• **September**

US and five Arab countries launch air strikes against ISIS.

2015

• **January**

Kurdish forces push ISIS out of Kobane.

• **May**

ISIS seizes ancient city of Palmyra.

• **September**

Russia carries out first air strikes in Syria.

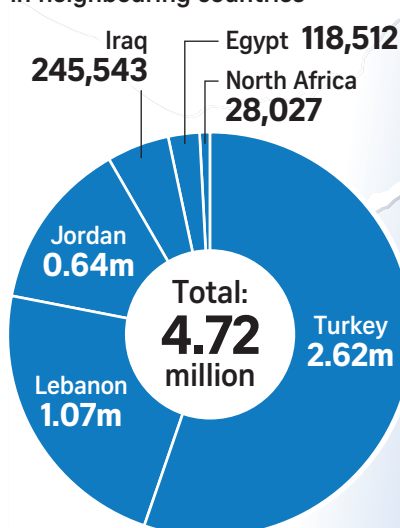
2016

• **February**

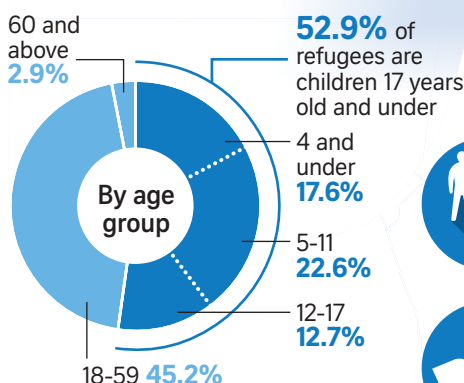
Partial ceasefire brokered by US and Russia goes into effect.

DISPOSSESSION AND DIVISION

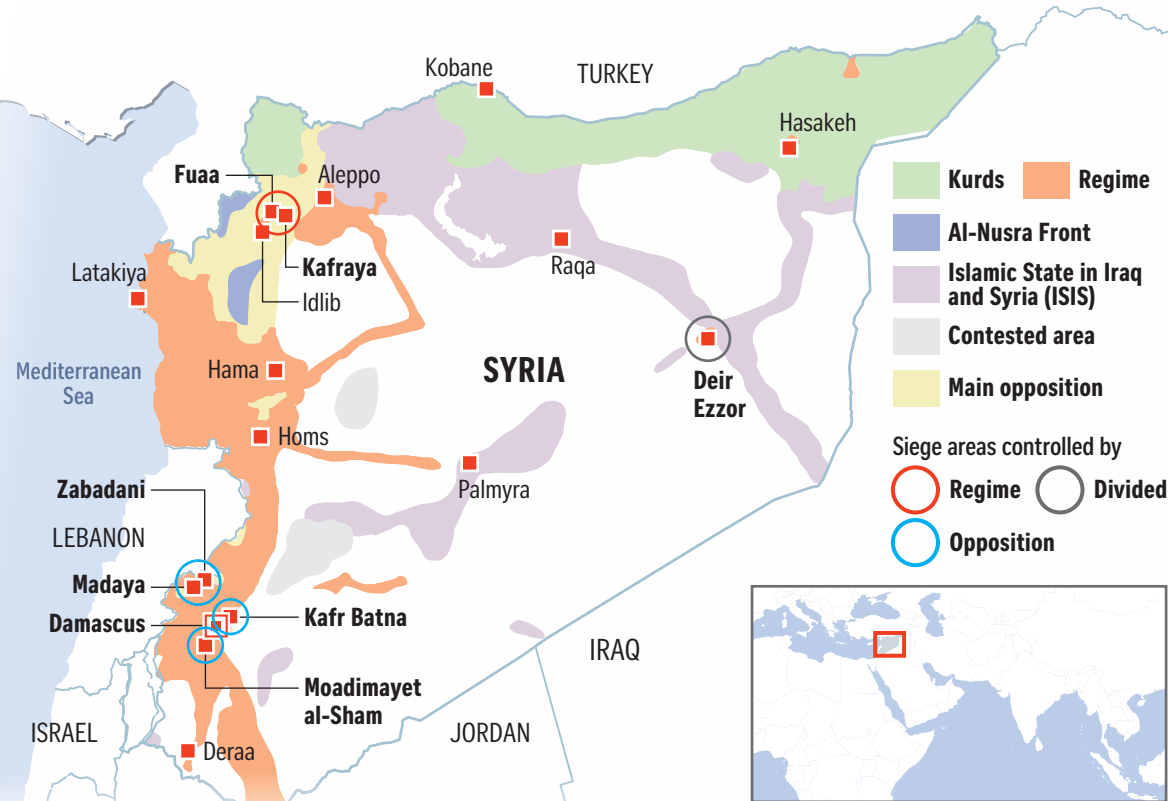
Registered Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries



Internally displaced people within Syria **6.3 million**



NOTE: Percentages do not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding off.



NOTE: Based on Institute for the Study of War (ISW) map as of Feb 12.

POPULATION

Down from **21.8 million** to **20.4 million**. Life expectancy down from 70.5 years in 2010 to 55.4 in 2015

ECONOMY

GDP down by estimated **US\$163 billion**. More than 85 per cent of Syrians live below poverty line

UNEMPLOYMENT

Surged from **14.9 per cent** in 2011 to **52.9 per cent** by end of 2015

EDUCATION

Over **45 per cent** of school-age children are no longer attending school

AID REQUIREMENT

Only **57 per cent** of the funds required for humanitarian aid in 2015 provided, down from 71 per cent in 2013.