

A daily fight for survival: A Syrian refugee in Lebanon

Ever since fleeing her hometown in rural Damascus in 2013, Khoulood, 47, has been living in an informal settlement in the Lebanese town of Aarsal and struggling with chronic disease and anxiety.

She witnessed the destruction of her house and her farmland. Her eldest son disappeared and was presumed killed by shelling; her sheep were lost. She was forced to flee with her husband and their eleven children, leaving behind everything they owned. Khoulood's life has changed completely after seeking refuge in Lebanon.



Credit: Action Against Hunger

Her husband and two sons are now sick and need healthcare. She has lost her other son and since then she feels constant physical pain. To survive, Khoulood sells homemade food from time to time. Her youngest son, 15, rides his motorbike around their neighborhood every day trying to sell old things that the family brought along from Syria, to be able to afford the rent in the tented settlement where they live.

The family's inability to find decent and stable income generating opportunities heightens their dependency on aid, including cash, food and winter assistance; however, this is still not enough to cover the expenses of healthcare for Khoulood's husband and sons.

Khoulood is constantly worried not only about her husband and sons' health but also about the future of her family.

“ Most of the time, I fear that I will not be able to survive and continue raising my children; but I'd rather be dead than live without my loved ones ”