

INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Syria's healthcare markers were on the rise until the war struck in 2011. The 13-year ongoing conflict led to the fall of the healthcare system, 6.9 million people internally displaced and 5.4 million refugees.
- ❑ Humanitarian aid and disaster relief are significant in the acute setting, but attention is lost on the long-term recovery.
- ❑ Our goal is to assess the consequences of the war on people's lives and health care, and if and how humanitarian aid has impacted people's lives. To do so, we followed up and surveyed people who received prosthetic devices from a non-profit organization called Rise Again.

METHODS

- ❑ A survey was conducted on 15 of the 48 recipients. 14 in person, one over the phone.
- ❑ 33 questions assessing 1) access to basic human needs (fresh food, clean water, access to healthcare...) 2) people's injuries and the way it affected their lives, whether they received appropriate care and 3) the way receiving the prosthetic devices impacted their lives.

RESULTS

- ❑ Age range: 10-52 years old, mean of 24 years old
- ❑ 6 minors, 5 married, household size range 2-12.
- ❑ Quotes from answers to "What do you think the Syrian community needs most"
"financial support for the internally displaced to be able to go back home", "more access to follow up (PT, rehab) so we can become active members of society again", "aid in all aspects of life".
- ❑ Quotes from answers to "How did the prosthetic device affect your quality of life?"
"Significant mental ease after receiving the device", "my life changed a lot and I was able to do the things I could not do anymore", "I came back and worked as a taxi driver".

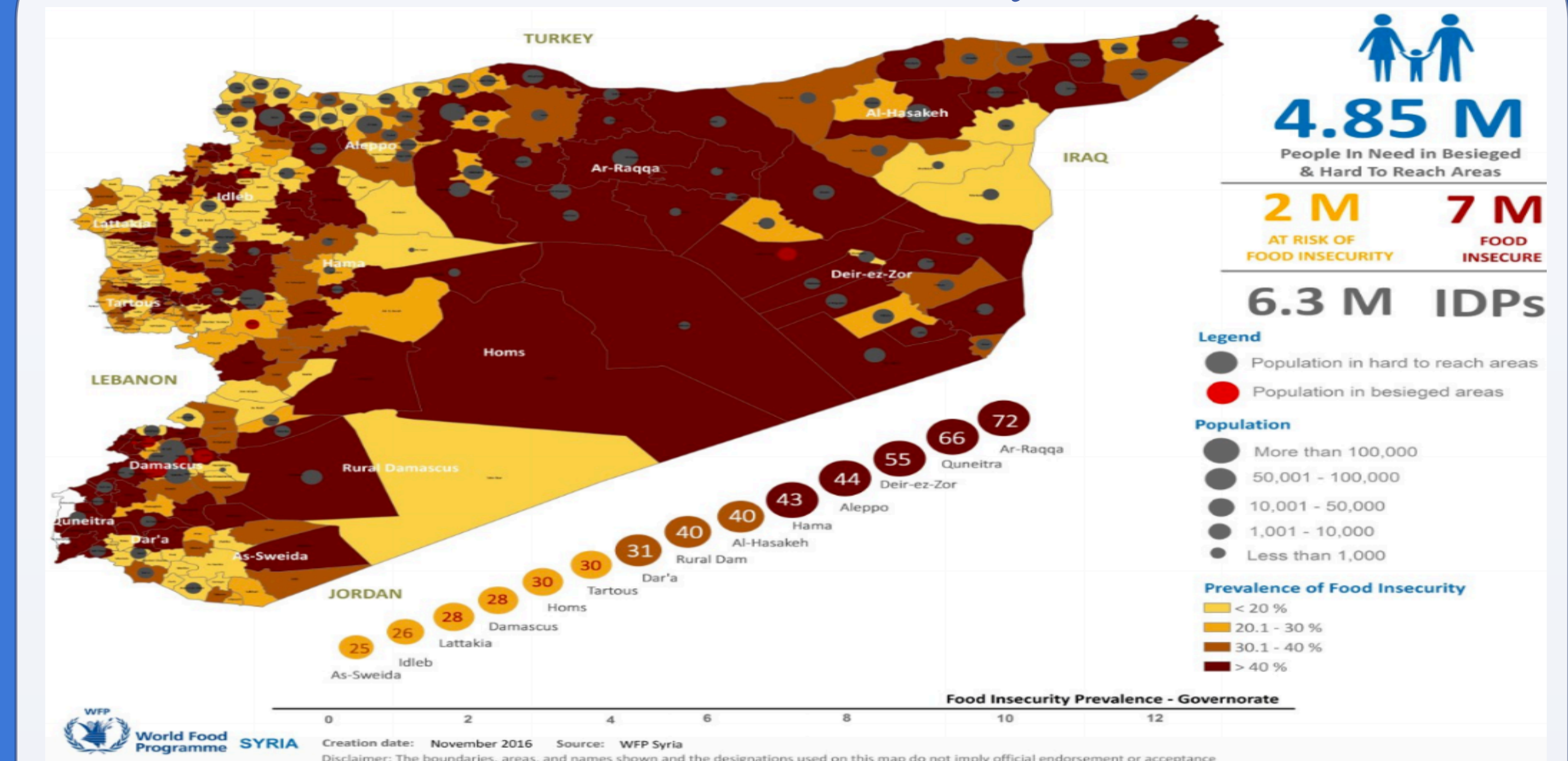
Table 1: Quality of life measures before and after the war

	Good		Neutral		Poor	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
How was your quality of life overall?	12	0	2	8	1	7
How was access to health care?	13	4	2	11	0	0
How was your emotional/mental health?	14	14	1	1	0	0
How was your physical health?	13	13	1	1	1	1
How was your access to clean water?	15	1	0	6	0	8
How was your access to fresh produce?	15	1	0	7	0	7

DISCUSSION

- ❑ The war negatively impacted most if not all aspects of life, especially those injured.
- ❑ Sustainable aid such as prostheses positively impacted people's lives, though still needed some improvement with more accessible follow up and rehab.
- ❑ A few recipients faced complications such as amputation site infection or re-fitting.
- ❑ War conditions caused a decline in sanitation and hygiene, putting populations at risk for infectious diseases outbreaks (Polio, Hepatitis A, measles in early 2010s).
- ❑ Most common need expressed is financial assistance. 90% of the Syrian population currently lives in poverty.
- ❑ Political unrest creates an obstacle to humanitarian assistance. Sanctions gave largely limited the aid being sent to the country, including medical treatments for cancer, diabetes and heart diseases.
- ❑ Efforts have been made to prioritize distribution of funds to local organizations.
- ❑ Mental health is still stigmatized despite a surge in PTSD, depression and anxiety, which especially affect children.

Table 1: Prevalence of Food Insecurity



STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

- ❑ Both investigators are bilingual and fluent in Arabic, helping with the construction of the survey and translations of the results.
- ❑ Open-ended questions allow for honest and authentic answers rather than standardized answers.
- ❑ Main limitation is the small sample size.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND DISCLOSURE

- ❑ Thank you to the Rotary International Health Scholarship, Global Health Track at CUSOM for funding the study.
- ❑ Thank you to Rana Shawa for helping with gathering information and conducting the surveys with our participants in Syria.
- ❑ Disclosure: first author of this study is also the founder and president of the non-profit organization "Rise Again used in this study.

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