

ISRAA'S STORY

Change lives. **For good.**
act:onaid

Israa is 13 and is originally from Syria

"We couldn't bring anything with us, just one change of clothes and one pair of shoes each. We left everything else behind. Mum says everything we left is gone forever."

Israa is 13-years-old and is from Syria. She lives with her mum, dad and five younger brothers and sisters.

Israa and her family were forced to flee Syria in March 2011 after the civil war started there. It was too dangerous for them to stay. Israa says:

"Before the war started we spent our time playing outside the house but after it started we had to stay in all the time."

Despite everything, Israa still hopes to return to Syria in the future:

"When we return to Syria, we will live in a tent while we rebuild our house. We lost our house but we have our lives."



Syria: Country fast facts

Full name: Syrian Arab Republic

Capital: Damascus

National symbol: Hawk

Population: 22.5 million (2013 estimate)

Official language: Arabic

Money: 1 Syrian pound = 100 piasters

Life expectancy: men = 74 years, women = 78 years

Climate: Hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters

(source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>)



Israa helps her family by doing things like collecting water and doing the washing. She also draws and loves to read with her family.



Israa has five younger brothers and sisters. Before the war they lived normal lives, but when the fighting started, everything changed.