



Women and Orphans in the Syrian Civil War: A Study on Jarablus Orphan Family Village *

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Abstract

Since the beginning of the civil war in Syria, the lives of millions of people in the country have been severely affected, and the resulting instability has led to forced migration, becoming an international issue. The process of forced migration, the urgent needs arising from the civil war, and the improvement of the living conditions of migrants have necessitated humanitarian aid and support on both regional and international scales. Particularly, addressing the needs of children, women, and the elderly who are vulnerable and the most severely affected groups during the civil war has become a fundamental expectation. From this perspective, the study focuses on the challenges faced by widowed mothers who have lost their spouses in the Syrian civil war along with the responsibilities undertaken by them. Additionally, it examines the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in meeting the needs of war-affected mothers and children. Within this framework, in-depth interviews were conducted on June 4th, 2024, with 10 mothers residing in the Turkish Red Crescent's Mustafa Can Kulakçı Orphanage in Jarablus, known as a safe zone. The data obtained were categorized into themes and interpreted using MAXQDA 2022 qualitative data analysis software. The findings revealed that widowed mothers who lost their spouses due to the Syrian civil war are concerned and anxious about their children's education and future, and they require long-term support programs.

Keywords

Forced Migration, Displacement, Widowed Mothers, Orphanage, Jarablus

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