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### **Syria: A Disastrous Four Years of Conflict**

NEW YORK, NY (March 17, 2015)—Four years since the crisis began, Syria’s humanitarian situation is appalling. Continued fighting has pushed millions from their homes, and medical workers are intentionally targeted by combatants.

“Despite great efforts by humanitarian organizations, including Doctors of the World, Syria’s situation is disastrous,” said Miranda Sissons, executive director of Doctors of the World USA. “The targeting of medical personnel adds salt to this deepening wound.”

More than half of the country’s 20 million citizens have been affected by the war, with more than 200,000 dead and 1.5 million severely or permanently injured. Of the 11 million displaced, 7.6 million remain in Syria, while 3.6 million have fled to refugee camps in neighbouring countries, stressing their healthcare systems.

Less than half of Syria’s public hospitals are fully functioning. In rebel-held areas most hospitals have been destroyed. The majority of the country’s doctors have fled.

The situation is worsened by deliberate targeting of Syrian medical workers and infrastructure. Six hundred medical personnel have been killed since 2011—145 of them tortured and executed. Physicians for Human Rights has reported [233 attacks on medical facilities](#) in the same period.

“Medical personnel are clearly targeted because they are seen as potential enemies, because they are seen as helping the opposite side,” says Doctors of the World’s Syria director Francesco Volpicella.

Doctors of the World, also known as *Medecins du Monde*, has been working in Syria and neighboring countries since the conflict’s onset, offering primary and other services in fixed and mobile clinics. In 2014, the organization provided services to more than 800,000, a 30 percent increase from 2013. Doctors of the World also provides supplies and training to Syrian medical facilities and personnel.

“Much more needs to be done by the UN Security Council, and by stakeholder governments,” said Sissons. “The displaced and injured need care, and the fighting must come to an end.”

The UN Security Council passed three resolutions in 2014 that called for an end to attacks on civilians and an increase in aid, but critics have argued they made little difference. Doctors of the World has signed the NGO report reviewing the resolutions implementation, [Failing Syria](#).

Learn more about the situation in Syria and how you can help at [fuirlaguerre.medecinsdumonde.org](http://fuirlaguerre.medecinsdumonde.org).

### **About Doctors of the World**

Doctors of the World USA is a US non-profit that is part of the global Médecins du Monde network. It provides emergency and long-term medical care to vulnerable people, while fighting for equal access to healthcare worldwide. Founded in France in 1980, the network cares for the most vulnerable through 350 programs in 79 countries, including in the United States.

Learn more at [doctorsoftheworld.org](http://doctorsoftheworld.org).

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